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Mahathir-Monaco

DR MAHATHIR ARRIVES IN MONACO

By: Jackson Sawatan

MONACO, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali arrived here Friday for a two-day visit.

Dr Mahathir, who came from New York where he delivered his speech at the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly Thursday, landed at a nearby airport, in Nice, France, and proceeded by road to this principality, about a 40-minute drive away.

Among those present at the Nice airport to welcome them were Malaysian ambassador to France Tunku Datuk Nazihah Tunku Mohamed Rus and Defence attache at the Malaysian embassy, Kapt Musa Omar.

Dr Mahathir's itinerary began with a visit to the Monaco Yacht Show 2003, dubbed as the greatest in-water exhibition of super yachts in Europe.

He was met on arrival at the show by its event director, Luc Pettavino. Pettavino told reporters that there were 90 super yachts costing 1.5 million Euro to 80 million Euro on display at the 6,000 sq m facility.

"This is the 13th edition of the show and it has been very successful each time. By December each year, all the yachts in this show would have been sold," he said.

He added that every year, the Monaco Yacht Show attracts the "who's who" in the yachting world because it only exhibits custom-made yachts.

Besides visiting the show, Dr Mahathir will also perform the soft launching of the Langkawi Yacht Registration on board the 'Lady Halima', a yacht owned by a Malaysian, Friday evening.

The move to make Langkawi an international yacht registration centre will enable yacht owners from the world over to register their yachts in the island. The facility will be officially launched in Langkawi on Oct 2.

On Saturday morning, Dr Mahathir will meet Malaysian students and Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) officials. He leaves for Kuala Lumpur at noon.

The Monaco visit is part of the Prime Minister's overseas itinerary, from last Monday. Before New York, he was in London to deliver a speech at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London and then proceeded to Sweden for a three-day official visit.

-- BERNAMA

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