

05 MAY 2003

ABDULLAH-STIMULUS

ABDULLAH BRIEFS DR MAHATHIR ON STIMULUS PACKAGE

CYBERJAYA, May 5 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he briefed the Prime Minister this morning on the draft of the stimulus package to be announced by the government soon.

He said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been informed on the draft that he formulated when he met him today.

"Of course, the Prime Minister will have the opportunity to give his own ideas to say what he wants to say. The draft is only a draft. But the stimulus package is entirely up to our leader," he told a media conference after presenting the "Malaysia Best Employer Award" here.

Asked when the stimulus package will be announced, he said: "Please be patient. I am not saying that it is going to be this week. Let the Prime Minister read the draft first."

Dr Mahathir started work today after a two-month leave.

On the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) invitation to Malaysia and several other countries to be included in discussions on Iraq's reconstruction, Abdullah said it showed that they (IMF) recognised Malaysia's ability.

Besides Malaysia, the IMF had invited the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Russia and China to discuss ways to rebuild Iraq after its destruction following the invasion led by the U.S. and its allies.

"They recognised our ability (and) our experience in developing the country," the deputy prime minister said.

Meanwhile, at the function, the Ritz-Carlton Kuala Lumpur and Dumex (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd were jointly named Best Employers Asia (Malaysia) 2003, based on a study conducted by Hewitt Associates, a global human resources outsourcing and consulting firm.

A total of 305 organisations and 84,183 employees participated in the Best Employers in Asia 2003 study, the second Pan Asian best employers study where research participants originated from eight markets in the region, namely, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

In Malaysia, 43 companies and 12,211 employees participated. -- BERNAMA
AZH MKO/MR