

# We won't attend summit, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Malaysia is firm in its stand not to attend the Earth Summit to be held in Brazil in June next year, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia would only decide to attend if there was an undertaking by the developed nations that the conference would produce positive ideas.

"To have a conference on environment, there is need for all quarters to have a positive attitude. We do not want the conference to fo-

cus on the wrongdoings of developing countries and the question of felling tropical trees.

"Pollution is also contributed by the heavy use of fossil fuels by developed nations, the high rate of temperate deforestation and other acts," he said at a Press conference on his return from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Harare and an official visit to Tanzania.

He was asked whether Malaysia had changed its stand on attending the Earth Summit.

Dr Mahathir said developed nations needed to give an assurance that they would attend the meeting with positive ideas and not merely advocate the boycott of Malaysian timber.

The Prime Minister cited as an example the haze hovering over the region where developed nations had not even made suggestions on how to overcome the situation.

"People have commented that their assistance have not been sought in solving the haze problem. These very people were so enthusi-

astic about the Penan plight and even went to the extent of tying themselves to trees.

"Why can't these countries offer their assistance in putting out the forest fires instead of claiming that they had not been invited to do so?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir, when asked to comment that other developing nations were banking on Malaysia to lead them during the summit, replied: "Not only developing nations but even developed nations must have positive ideas on the preservation of the environment."