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MALAYSIA MAY ATTEND ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT IF... SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir-summit

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia may attend next year's environment: summit, in Brazil if the two meetings preceeding it come up with positive resolutions on the respective roles of North and South countries, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said there would be two meetings prior to the summit, the preparatory meeting and the meeting of developing countries.

Malaysia would first assess the outcome of both meetings before deciding whether to attend or not, he said.

+If their outcome stresses on what the rich, the poor, the small and the big countries should do, then we may decide to attend, + he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters after addressing the 1991 United Nations Malaysia Association (UNMA) forum here.-- more

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Mahathir-summit 2 Kuala Lumpur

He said Malaysia would make consideration if it found that the summit sought how all parties should act to reduce environmental pollution.

+But if eventually we realise that it is going to let only the poor countries bear the burden of looking after the environment, then we might as well don't attend, + he said.

He said even before this, Malaysia has said it might not attend the Rio de Janeiro summit if it only focus on developing countries: environmental pollution and logging activities.

As such Malaysia would attend the two meetings preceeding the summit and was not planning to boycott them, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

Reporters also asked the Prime Minister on issues he would raise when addressing the G15 summit in Caracas, Venezuela from Nov 27 to 29 Nov.

He said he would, among other things, touch on North-South relations, problems faced by Asian countries, and general South-South issues.

To another question, the Prime Minister said Asean member countries have not officially discuss Vietnam and Cambodia participation in the regional grouping.

So far, no application has been received, he said.-- Bernama

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