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MAHATHIR TO DEFEND XL DECLARATION AT EARTH SUMMIT

Mahathir-Summit

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KOTA KINABALU, April 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today his decision to attend the Earth Summit is to defend what was agreed to at the Second Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development in Kuala Lumpur. (P)

The three-day conference adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration which embodies the common stand of developing countries on **enviromental** and development issues to be discussed with the developed countries at the summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

+Although we are still unhappy with the actions of some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) because of our commitment to the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, we must defend it,+ he told reporters after a 90-minute closed door meeting with Sabah UMNO leaders here.

He said it would be meaningless if +we are to submit the declaration without defending it.+

Dr Mahathir has decided to lead the Malaysian **delegation** to the summit, formally called the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) from June 3 to 14, following the outcome of the KL conference. -- more

▼30/04/15-49MST

CNS2321

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Mahathir-Summit 2 Kota Kinabalu

Dr Mahathir said today that he would only attend the summit session and not the entire meeting:

Responding to a question, he said his decision to attend did not mean that he had changed his stance on the summit.

He added: +This is not a sudden change. 'We did not want to go to Rio de Janeiro because some of the NGO's were planning to use the summit as a forum to attack us and other developing countries.

+On the other hand, we were directly involved in the ministerial conference and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration. +

He said as Malaysia could not dissociate itself from the declaration, he must attend the summit.

Malaysia felt that the commitment of developed countries to environmental issues was still lacking, he added.

He said although some representatives of developed countries attended the Kuala Lumpur meeting, they did not make any statement to indicate the extent of their commitment. -- more

▼30/04/16-03MST

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Mahathir-Summit 3 (last) Kota Kinabalu

On the proposed Global Green Fund; Dr Mahathir said there was fear **that** the existing Global Environment Facility, administered by the World Bank, would not benefit the developing countries.

He said the voice of the developing countries in the World Bank was ... weak and that was why we want the Global Green Fund, which would be administered democratically.+

In principle, the fund would give equal treatment to all its members, he added.

He said Malaysia's proposal was submitted to the Kuala Lumpur conference and had been agreed to although not in full +but we will hold to what has been agree&.+

As to the suggestion made during Kuala Lumpur meeting that he lead the developing countries to the Rio summit, he replied: +I do not know anything about this, but I will attend the summit as Malaysia's representative.+ --
B e r n a m a

▼30/04/16-07MST