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MAHATHIR SAYS MOST RULER EXPECTED TO SIGN DECLARATION ON ETHICS

Mahathir-ethics

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 3 (Bernama) -- Most of the Rulers are expected to sign a declaration on ethics at the ceremony to be held at Istana Negara tomorrow, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today.

He will be accompanying the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah to the ceremony, also to be attended by the respective Menteri Besar and ministers, he added.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the Institute of Islamic Understanding and +Towards the 21st century: Islam and Vision 2020+ congress at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Dr Mahathir said only the Malay rulers would sign the declaration.

+There will not be any government representative. This is a Rulers Declaration and only the rulers will sign it,+ he added. -- more

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Early last month, the Prime Minister said the rulers had agreed to a draft of the declaration.

Preparation of the ethics for the Malay rulers was agreed to following representation by an Umno Supreme Council delegation last Feb. 25.

The Supreme Council delegation, which did not include the President and Deputy President, handed over a memorandum of Umno's views on palace interference in politics, administration and business, at an audience with the rulers.

The ethics for rulers, originally drafted by Umno, was later changed to a declaration by the rulers.

Last Monday, Umno Vice-president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the declaration would be made and signed although some rulers did not agreed to it. -- Bernama

▼03/07/14-06MST