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Mahathir-UNGA (pix)
PM LEAVES FOR 48TH UNGA NEXT WEEK

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad leaves for New York next week leading a 25-member delegation to the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Dr Mahathir, who is due to arrive there on Sept 28, is scheduled to deliver a key-note address on various international issues on Oct 1.

Speaking at a press conference at Wisma Putra here, Abdullah however did not specify the issues Dr Mahathir would touch on.

"Wisma Putra feels the coming General Assembly will be rather important because of new international issues such as the latest development in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine," he said.

Abdullah expected issues on the environment and human rights to also feature well in Dr Mahathir's address to the coming UN general assembly. --

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Abdullah leaves for New York tomorrow to attend several ministerial-level meetings prior to the UN General Assembly.

These include the meeting of ministers of the G-15, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement, the G-77 and the Asean Foreign Ministers meeting.

Abdullah said he himself would touch on the need to restructure the UN and its role especially following the failure of its Security Council to implement its own resolutions.

"The UN now seems to be paralysed. It appears the UN can only pass resolutions but is impotent when it comes to implementing them," he said.

Abdullah would also touch on the UN's financial situation and countries, including the United States, defaulting on their contributions to the world body. -- more

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The UN's financial crisis would not stop Malaysia from sending its troops for UN peace-keeping duties in Bosnia-Herzegovina as reimbursements could be claimed later from the UN secretariat, he said.

Abdullah said Malaysia had not defaulted on paying its contributions to the UN.

Abdullah also hoped that at the coming OIC meeting he would be attending, the PLO representative would brief OIC members on the recent Israel-Palestine accord for Palestinian autonomy.

He looked forward to being briefed on India's preparations for next year's summit of G-15 Heads of government in New Delhi.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to attend it.

The coming United Nations general assembly will be in session till Dec 23. -- Bernama

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