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Mahathir-G15

G15 MINISTERS TO MEET IN MOROCCO AHEAD OF GATT SIGNING

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 6 (Bernama) ⁹⁴ ³ Ministers of the Group of 15 (G15) will meet in Marrakech, Morocco, a day before the coming General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) conference, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

~~He said~~ the G15 meeting was to work out a common stand to oppose any attempt to undermine the interest of developing countries during the GATT conference.

"The heads of governments of G15 members decided on this in New Delhi recently because they believe there are efforts by some quarters to retract their commitment to the GATT accord," he told reporters at an Aidil Fitri gathering with the media hosted by Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat here tonight.

He said the G15 members were concerned that several conditions detrimental to developing countries might be attached to the GATT accord to be signed. -- more

▼07/04/00-29MST

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The Prime Minister, addressing the G15 summit in New Delhi, had warned developing countries of the tendency of developed nations to tie issues of human rights and a global minimum wage to trade.

He said the developed nations were striving to insert various conditions in the GATT accord which would be against the interest of developing countries.

Asked whether today's Cabinet meeting had decided on a successor to Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Jaffar Hussein who has opted for early retirement, Dr Mahathir said Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would make the announcement on the new governor soon.

Jaffar accepted full responsibility for the central bank's error of judgment which caused foreign exchange losses of RM9,300 million in 1992 and RM5,700 million last year.

He will step down on May 1. -- more

▼07/04/00-33MST

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On the Kelantan Umno liaison committee, Dr Mahathir who is its head said there was no reason to restructure the body in the wake of the Barisan Nasional's defeat in the Lundang by-election last month.

"There were some weaknesses in the party machinery during the by-election but they can be rectified," he said.

As for Sabah, he said the Umno disciplinary committee headed by Anwar in his capacity as deputy president would take the necessary action against members who betrayed the party in the February state election. -- Bernama

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