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PM-Zimbabwe
BUSY SCHEDULE AWAITS PM IN ZIMBABWE

By: K.C. Leong

HARARE, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- A busy schedule awaits Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he arrives here tomorrow for a five-day visit to Zimbabwe to attend the two-day World Solar Summit beginning on Monday.

The Prime Minister, who will be accompanied by Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie, is also scheduled to attend the inaugural meeting of the World Solar Commission on Saturday.

On Sunday, he will attend briefings on a number of Malaysian-Zimbabwean projects involving the private sector as well as witness the signing of a privatised power project in which a Malaysian company is participating.

Meanwhile, senior officials have started work to prepare two documents for adoption by the summit -- the Harare Declaration and the World Solar Programme 1996-2005.

Representing Malaysia at the officials meeting is Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Nuraizah Abdul Hamid who is assisted by officials of the Economic Planning Unit and the ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs.

The Harare Declaration is expected to spell out the global commitment towards greater development and use of reusable energy sources such as solar, hydro, geothermal, wind and wave power, especially in developing countries.

The World Solar Programme will outline the major projects on reusable energy to be implemented around the world.

Malaysian High Commissioner to Zimbabwe V. Yoogalingam today presented a cheque for US\$75,000 (RM187,500) to the Zimbabwe organising committee for the summit as Malaysia's contribution to the costs of staging the event.

A number of other countries, including some oil-producing nations, have also made contributions for the summit, encouraging the belief that there has been a change of heart by oil-producing nations towards development of alternative energy sources.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), which initiated the summit, says there is now increased awareness by oil producers that sizeable populations in remote areas in many developing countries will remain out of reach of national power grids and will have to depend on alternative energy sources such as solar power. --

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