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G15-Heads

EIGHT HEADS OF GOVT TO ATTEND G15 SUMMIT

By: Kuah Guan Oo

HARARE, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Eight heads of state and government have confirmed that they will attend the sixth summit of the grouping of 15 developing countries (G-15) beginning here on Sunday, host Zimbabwe said.

Tichaona Joknya, the personal representative of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, told local reporters yesterday that the leaders would start arriving tomorrow.

He, however, did not reveal who they are.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to arrive tomorrow afternoon.

Jokonya also said the heads of government would go for their retreat at Victoria Falls on Monday before returning here on Tuesday for the summit's closing ceremony.

Meanwhile, local newspaper "The Herald" reported that the G15 member states owe their secretariat about RM4.1 million.

Quoting a report of the grouping's Technical Support Facility, it said the biggest debtors are Peru, Jamaica and Venezuela who owe a total of RM3 million.

The paid-up members are Algeria, Egypt, India, Malaysia and Zimbabwe.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir's personal representative at the summit, Harun Siraj, said each member country would have to pay some US\$60,000 to US\$75,000 (RM150,000-RM175,000) a year for the running of the new permanent secretariat in Geneva. -- BERNAMA

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