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G15-Abdullah

FREQUENCY OF G15 SUMMITS TO BE DISCUSSED AT SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will raise the question of whether the G15 Summit should continue to be held annually at tomorrow's meeting here of the leaders of the grouping of developing countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will bring up the matter, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"For Malaysia we don't have any problem with the meeting being held every year because our Prime Minister has never been absent from the meetings.

"If it can be held annually that's good for us but we also want to hear the views of other leaders," Abdullah told reporters after briefing Dr Mahathir on yesterday's G15 Foreign Ministers meeting.

The Prime Minister, as the chairman of tomorrow's summit, had been informed of the issues discussed at the ministers' meeting, he said.

Abdullah said another issue brought to the attention of Dr Mahathir was the possibility of holding future summits at a different time and not the third quarter of the year.

This is because Latin American leaders were always busy with other meetings during the third quarter including the Iberian summit in which they were actively involved, he said.

"We also notice that during the last quarter of the year, there are many elections in South America and Africa, perhaps we can bring the date forward but it is up to the leaders to decide," Abdullah said.

"We had hoped to get more leaders to come (for the Summit here) but there are difficulties for them (including) Jamaica which is having a general election, " he said.

The G15 comprises Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. Kenya will officially be admitted to the grouping at the summit here.

--BERNAMA

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