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KL hopes Jamaican PM will attend summit

MALAYSIA, which will host the G-15 summit this November, hopes that Jamaican Prime Minister P.N.J. Patterson will attend the summit, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said Jamaica's presence at group of 15 developing countries summit is very meaningful due to Jamaica's important role in the Caribbean region in the context of South-South co-operation.

Abdullah said he was told by Jamaican Industry, Investment and Commerce Minister Dr Paul Robertson that Jamaica intends to attend the G-15 summit but at that time the country may be having its general election, which date is yet to be confirmed.

"Otherwise, if the election does not overlap with the summit, Jamaican Prime Minister will attend the summit," he told a media conference after his meeting with Robertson in his office in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Abdullah said Robertson, however, had made a strong commitment that Patterson will attend the G-15 summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur between November 3 and November 5.

This is the second time Kuala Lumpur will host the G-15 summit, after the 1990 summit.

The G-15 group of developing countries consists of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela dan Zimbabwe.

Abdullah said during the meeting, he and Robertson felt that the G-15 can play a greater role in enhancing South-South co-operation.

"G-15 has a catalyst role to play in ensuring the success of South-South cooperation. Jamaica plays that role in Caribbean, just as Malaysia and Indonesia play their roles in this region," he said.

He said Malaysia and Jamaica also agreed that bilateral relations between both countries in terms of trade and economy should be enhanced.

Abdullah also has promised Robertson that he will inform the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Jamaica's intention to be in the United Nations Security Council by the year 2000.

He said Jamaica also wants to know about Malaysia's stance towards Taiwan in Malaysia's "one-China" policy.

"I explained to Robertson that our relations with Taiwan is only on economic basis.

"Anything political, we deal with Beijing," he said.

He said as Taiwan is one of the biggest investors in Malaysia, Jamaica wants to know Taiwan's position in Malaysia's "one-China" policy.

Robertson is leading an eight-man Jamaican business and government delegation to Malaysia for a week's visit until today.

This is the first time a Jamaican trade delegation visits Malaysia.

The trip is part of its visit to dynamic Asian countries to woo investors to Jamaica.

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