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Law to lead team to UN instead of Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will not lead the Malaysian delegation to next week's Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York as planned.

Instead, he will be represented by Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding.

Law said today Anwar would not be able to attend the meeting because of his duties as acting Prime Minister since Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was away.

Law will lead a seven-man delegation comprising senior officers from the Department of Environment, the Economic Planning Unit; and the Science, Technology and Environment; Foreign; Primary Industries and International Trade and Industry ministries.

The UN session will assess the success or failure in implementing the Earth Summit Rio Declaration and Agenda 21.

(Agenda 21 is an 800-page document containing recommendations designed to guide countries towards sustainable development and global environmental protection.)

Law said Malaysian officials were now drafting the issues to be raised at the meeting.

It was decided at the Informal Meeting of Environment Ministers from North and South countries in Dresden, Germany, in March, that the session must assess the successes and shortcomings in the implementation of the Earth Summit Rio Declaration, the Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles.

The meeting, which began on March 21, was in preparation for the Commission on Sustainable Development meeting held in April and the UN session.

The four-day UN special session will begin next Monday. Prior to that, Law will be attending the United Nations Preparatory Meeting.

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