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Leaders set to give own perspective next Monday

THE heads of state and government of non-aligned and developing countries in the Group of 15 (G-15) will be giving their own perspectives of international and political developments at their seventh summit in Kuala Lumpur beginning next Monday.

The summit will be presided by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The G-15, a representative group of developing countries interested in promoting South-South cooperation, comprises Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Kenya will be formally admitted as a member of the G-15 at this summit, in accordance with a decision taken at the Sixth G-15 Summit in Harare in November 1996.

Among those expected to attend the summit are: Algerian President Liamine Zeroul, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Indonesian President Suharto and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

Others expected are Argentinian Vice-President Dr Carlos Ruckauf, Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, Jamaican Deputy Prime Minister Seymour Mullings, Brazilian External Relations Minister Lampreia Luis Felipe, Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria Trevino and Chilean Economic Minister Alvaro Garcia Hurtado.

This summit will also give leaders the opportunity to discuss the currency and economic turmoil affecting two of its members, namely Malaysia and Indonesia.

Among other issues for deliberation by the summit are:

- * action to be taken by the group for a more positive and constructive dialogue with developed countries;
- * measures for coordinating policies and action by the group at the global level; and
- * new avenues for the formulation and implementation of programmes of South-South cooperation.

In conjunction with the seventh summit, a series of meetings of senior officials and ministers will be held.

Yesterday, the Governing Council of the Committee on Investment, Trade and Technology held its fourth meeting.

Today, the personal representatives of the heads of state and government of the G-15 will meet, followed by the first meeting of the trade and economics ministers this Friday, and the foreign ministers' meeting on Saturday.

A G-15 trade exhibition, which is traditionally held in parallel to each G-15 summit and involving the participation of G-15 countries, will be opened by Dr Mahathir on Saturday.

A total of 14 member countries are participating in the exhibition.

They are Malaysia, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Zimbabwe and Nigeria.

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