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G15-opening

MAHATHIR OPENS SEVENTH G15 SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today opened the seventh summit of the Group of 15 developing countries (G15) here.

The summit is attended by nine leaders of member countries.

Apart from Dr Mahathir, the others are President Suharto of Indonesia, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Alberto Fujimori of Peru, President Liamine Zeroual of Algeria, Vice-President Dr Carlos Ruckauf of Argentina, Vice-President Krishan Kant of India and Deputy Prime Minister Dr Seymour Mullings of Jamaica.

Mugabe will address the opening ceremony on behalf of the African continent while Fujimori and Kant will represent Latin America and Asia, respectively.

The G15 comprises Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Kenya will be admitted as the 16th member at the summit here.

Brazil is represented by its External Relations Minister Luiz Felipe Lampreia, Chile by Economics Minister Alvaro Garcia, Kenya by Minister in the President's Office for Regional Cooperation Nicholas K. Biwott, Mexico by Foreign Affairs Minister Angel Gurría, Nigeria by Minister of National Planning Chief Ayo Ogunlade, Senegal by Foreign Minister Moustapha Niassé and Venezuela by Industry and Commerce Minister Dr Freddy Rojas Parra.

The three-day summit will review the impact of globalisation on their developing economies and discuss measures to step up trade, investment and technology cooperation.

The leaders will also issue a special statement on the currency manipulation issue apart from their traditional communique.

This is the second time Malaysia is hosting the summit. Kuala Lumpur was the venue for the inaugural summit in 1990. -- BERNAMA

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