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Abdullah-CHOGM

MAHATHIR TO RAISE FINANCIAL ISSUES AT CHOGM

By: Wan A. Hulaimi

LONDON, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will raise issues related to international finance at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Edinburgh, Scotland, this week.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today CHOGM would also discuss, among others, the conditions for Commonwealth membership.

Four countries -- Israel, Rwanda, Yemen and Palestine -- were reported to have submitted their applications to join the Commonwealth at this meeting.

Speaking to Malaysian journalists here, Abdullah said he contacted Dr Mahathir this morning and the prime minister confirmed that he would be attending the meeting which begins on Friday.

"We also have a role in education and Malaysia has set up a Commonwealth scholarship fund. We are also in the process of building the Commonwealth university in Malaysia and there are other programmes which we are involved in," he said.

Malaysia was also involved in an international ministerial committee which was set up after the last CHOGM in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The committee was currently looking into matters arising in the Commonwealth countries, he added.

Earlier, Abdullah delivered Dr Mahathir's speech at a dialogue between British and Malaysian captains of industry, here.

Dr Mahathir was to have delivered the speech personally but could not make it for health reasons.

Abdullah said that in his meeting with other foreign ministers here they expressed confidence that Malaysia would be able to resolve its economic problems caused by the fall of the ringgit and the share market.

-- BERNAMA

WAH JK