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Mahathir-CHOGM

MAHATHIR TO BRING UP CURRENCY ISSUE AT CHOGM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to bring up the issue of the currency turmoil in Southeast Asia when he addresses the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Edinburgh at the end of the month.

Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Abdul Kadir Mohamed said today this would come after Dr Mahathir gave three other keynote addresses at functions in London prior to the meeting in Edinburgh which officially starts on Oct 24.

Speaking at a special briefing on the CHOGM here, he said on Oct 21, Dr Mahathir was scheduled to address the Malaysian-British: The London Dialogue on the subject of "Translating Vision into Reality-The Malaysian Experience".

Later in the day, he would speak at the United World College on "Asia's Place, Asia's Role in the Global Commonwealth of the 21st Century".

On Oct 22, Dr Mahathir will deliver a keynote address entitled "The Key Issues for the Commonwealth in Promoting Trade and Investment" at the inaugural Commonwealth Business Forum.

The four-day CHOGM, which carries the special theme of "Trade, Investment and Development-The Road to Commonwealth Prosperity", will be opened by Queen Elizabeth II.

Abdul Kadir said Dr Mahathir would be heading a 22-member Malaysian delegation including Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

So far, six requests had been made by leaders to meet Dr Mahathir, he said.

He said Sukom Ninety Eight Bhd executive chairman Gen (Rtd) Tan Sri Hashim Ali would also make a 15-minute presentation in Edinburgh on Kuala Lumpur's preparations for the 16th Commonwealth Games next year.

He said the leaders' gathering would be preceded by the meeting of Commonwealth senior officials meeting.

Abdul Kadir said the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group would also meet to formulate its recommendations to Commonwealth leaders regarding the status of Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Gambia in the 54-member grouping. Malaysia is to be represented by the Prime Minister's Special Envoy, Tan Sri Musa Hitam.

He said a parallel meeting would be held to address the concerns of Commonwealth's small member countries. -- BERNAMA

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