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Suharto is not attending talks

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today confirmed that Indonesia will not be represented by President Suharto at the second Asean Informal Summit beginning here on Monday.

However, he said should Suharto make a last-minute decision to appear at the three-day summit, there would be no problems in making preparations.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters after attending the opening of the "Private Sector Salute to Asean" conference in Petaling Jaya to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Asean by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Yesterday, Indonesia's State Secretariat Minister Murdiono was quoted as saying in Jakarta that the President would not attend the summit as he had been advised by his doctors to cancel the trip as it would be too tiring for him.

Murdiono said Foreign Minister Ali Alatas would represent Suharto at the summit, adding that Suharto would be missed at the summit "because he is the most senior leader".

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