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Summit decisions must be implemented quickly

KEPALA BATAS, Fri. - To overcome the current economic problems in the Asean region, decisions made at the recent Second Asean Informal Summit must be implemented as soon as possible, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said his ministry, playing the role of co-ordinator for the summit and several meetings with Asean's three Northeast Asia trading partners, would implement most of the proposals and agreements during the first few months of next year.

"All Asean member nations will also expedite their efforts to ensure success of the various measures to overcome the current economic problems."

"On our part, my ministry and other government agencies, including the International Trade and Industry Ministry and the Finance Ministry would hold follow-up meetings," he told reporters after performing Friday prayers at the Jamiul al-Badawi mosque here.

Abdullah said the move to expedite the execution of most of the decisions and agreements made during the summit and between Asean nations and China, Japan and South Korea, was in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for a smoother and faster implementation of the efforts.

"Dr Mahathir said the current economic problems were enormous and could deteriorate quickly."

"Therefore, it is imperative all efforts be expedited and carried out effectively," he said.

He also said that his ministry would soon submit a report on the outcome of the various meetings during the summit to the Cabinet.

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