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SUMMIT: SUHARTO SUFFERING FROM FATIGUE, SAYS ALATAS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Indonesia's President Suharto is recuperating from fatigue after a long trip abroad and has been advised by his doctors not to undertake strenuous journeys inside or outside Indonesia, said his Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

Alatas confirmed that Suharto will not be attending the second Asean informal summit here tomorrow.

"It is with deep regret that he cannot attend the meeting," Alatas told reporters after calling on Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Alatas said he conveyed Suharto's regrets to Dr Mahathir. Alatas will represent Suharto at the summit.

The Indonesian Foreign Minister said Suharto regretted his absence as he acknowledged the importance of the Asean Plus 3 informal summit with China, Japan and South Korea that will take place for the first time here.

Suharto recently visited southern Africa, Canada and Saudi Arabia. The rupiah and stock market in Jakarta plunged Friday on news that he had cancelled his trip here. -- BERNAMA

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