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ASEAN WANTS CAMBODIA ADMITTED, SAYS MAHATHIR

By: E Sivabalan

HANOI, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has set the tone for the Sixth Asean Summit beginning here tomorrow by saying that Asean hopes to admit Cambodia into the regional grouping at the summit.

"Yes, we think so," Dr Mahathir told reporters here when asked if he thought Cambodia should be admitted into Asean in Hanoi.

Dr Mahathir, who is here to attend the two-day summit, declined further comment when approached at the hotel where he is staying.

Asean comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Dr Mahathir and fellow Asean leaders are expected to discuss Phnom Penh's admission into the grouping at their informal dinner here tonight.

The prime minister is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen later today.

Hun Sen is on a two-day visit here.

-- BERNAMA

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