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Dr M to attend NAM Summit in Durban

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will head the Malaysian delegation to the 12th Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement from Sept 2 to 3 in Durban, South Africa.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and senior officials from the Ministry, the Prime Minister's Department and the Malaysian High Commission in Pretoria, a Ministry statement said today.

The summit will be preceded by a senior officials' meeting from Aug 29 to 30, followed by a meeting of the foreign ministers from Aug 31 to Sept 1.

At the summit, which is held once every three years, South Africa will take over the chairmanship of NAM from Colombia with effect from Aug 29.

Besides the 113 NAM countries that will be participating, 18 observer countries and 27 guest countries are expected to attend.

The summit will provide an opportunity for NAM to take stock of the prevailing international situation, to reflect on the movement's achievements and to outline its future strategies to meet the challenges of the coming millennium.

Other issues in the agenda include the role of NAM, United Nations reform, disarmament and international security, the Middle East peace process, the Korean peninsula situation, African problems, the financial crisis experienced by several NAM countries, globalisation and the risks it poses to developing countries, drug control and the advancement of women's and human rights.

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