

26 AUG 1998
NAM-Malaysia
DR MAHATHIR TO ATTEND NAM SUMMIT IN DURBAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will attend the two-day 12th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in South Africa where he will present Malaysia's views on the current economic and financial crisis and other international issues.

The summit will look into the financial crisis experienced by some NAM countries as well as globalisation and the risks it poses to developing countries, said a Wisma Putra statement today.

The summit, beginning in Durban on Sept 2, will be attended by a total of 113 leaders of the movement.

The statement said the summit will provide Malaysia the opportunity to exchange views on issues of common concern with other NAM members and to Malaysia's perception on a number of international issues including the current economic and financial crisis.

Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and senior officials from the Foreign Ministry, Prime Minister's Office and the Malaysia high commission in Pretoria.

The summit will be an opportunity for NAM to take stock of the prevailing international situation, to reflect upon the movement's achievement and to enable the outlining of its future strategies to meet the challenges of the coming millennium, said the statement.

NAM leaders will also review their cooperation in politics, economic and social fields with the view to adopting common positions in the United Nations (UN) and other international fora.

The summit is expected to review the role of NAM, UN reforms, disarmament and international security, the West Asian peace process, the Korean peninsula, the situation in Africa, international drug control, advancement of women and human rights.

At the coming summit, South Africa will take over the movement's chairmanship from Colombia with effect from Aug 29.

Besides NAM's member countries, 18 observer countries are expected to attend the Durban Summit. Another 27 countries are also expected to attend as guests.

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

NAM was established in 1961 in Belgrade and holds its summit once in three years. The last summit was held in Cartagena, Colombia in 1995.

-- BERNAMA
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