

15 JAN 1998

DR MAHATHIR TO MEET SUHARTO ON SATURDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will make a one-day working visit to Indonesia on Saturday for talks with President Suharto.

According to a Wisma Putra statement, the purpose of Dr Mahathir's visit is to exchange views and hold discussions with Suharto on the latest economic and financial situation affecting the region.

The statement said the last time the two leaders met was during the Group of 15 (G-15) Meeting held here last October.

Dr Mahathir is expected to return home immediately after his meeting with Suharto.

Dr Mahathir told a news conference after chairing a National Information Technology Council meeting here today that he wanted to meet Suharto and discuss with him "because we are neighbours."

Suharto had spoken with leaders of several nations the past week over Indonesia's difficulties due to the financial and economic crises in Asia.

Suharto and International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Michel Camdessus signed a memorandum in Jakarta today to accelerate reforms to deal with the turmoil.

The memorandum sets out fresh steps Indonesia must take under a US\$43-billion bailout package agreed with the IMF last October. -- BERNAMA

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