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Mahathir-Meetings

MAHATHIR PLANS TO MEET RAMOS AND CHUAN NEXT MONTH

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he plans to meet Philippine President Fidel Ramos and Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai next month to discuss the regional economic crisis.

He said he would exchange views on the crisis with the two leaders as he did with President Suharto of Indonesia in Jakarta last week and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in Johor Baharu today.

Dr Mahathair, who spoke to reporters after opening the Institut Profesional Baitulmal here, said this when asked to comment on today's meeting with Goh.

He said the Singapore leader was of the view that if the countries of the region were not careful the economic problem could become more serious.

"However, he saw signs of recovery and hoped the situation in Indonesia eases so that the recovery could go on," said Dr Mahathir.

He said Singapore promised to continue providing assistance to Indonesia although restoring the Indonesian economy appeared difficult in the short term.

Dr Mahathir said Goh and other members of the Singapore delegation were briefed on the steps taken by Malaysia to overcome the economic downturn in the country such as the proposed establishment of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC).

He said Singapore felt that the question of restoring confidence seemed to be over emphasised during the current crisis, as compared to fundamentals. -- BERNAMA

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