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MAHATHIR MEETS SUHARTO OVER CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS

JAKARTA, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has just begun a meeting with President Suharto at his Jalan Cendana residence here where the two leaders are expected to discuss the present economic crisis faced by Indonesia as well as other countries in the region.

The two leaders may also discuss Malaysia's plan to deport foreign workers to reduce its burden during the crisis, according to a palace official.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here at 11.25am (Malaysian time) was greeted by Suharto on his arrival at the president's residence.

Hundreds of thousands of Indonesians are currently working in Malaysia, mostly in the construction and the plantation sector.

Dr Mahathir is the second head of government from Asean who came to meet President Suharto to personally discuss the current economic crisis.

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong held an hour long discussion with President Suharto here on Tuesday. -- BERNAMA

KHY RM