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NAM: PM to present views on economic crisis

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

The Durban summit begins September 2.

Wisma Putra, in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, said the summit will also see the heads of state/government discussing the financial crisis experienced by some NAM countries, globalisation and the risks it poses to developing countries, international dadah control, advancement of women and human rights.

Leaders will also review their cooperative activities in the political, economic and social fields with the aim to adopting coordinated and common positions in the UN and other international fora.

Among other issues to be discussed are the role of NAM, reform of the United Nations, disarmament and international security, the West Asian peace process, the Korean Peninsular and the African situations.

The statement said Dr Mahathir 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.

The meeting will be preceded by a senior officials' meeting from August 29 to August 30, followed by a two-day Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The NAM summit is held once in every three years. The last summit was held in 1995 in Cartagena, Colombia.

At the 12th summit, South Africa will take over the chairmanship of NAM from Colombia with effect from August 29.

Besides the 113 NAM member countries that will be participating in the summit, it is expected that 18 observer countries will attend the meeting.

Another 27 countries are also expected to attend the summit as guests of NAM.

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