

29 AUG 1998

Mahathir-NAM

PM NOT ATTENDING NAM SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today confirmed that he will not be attending the 12th Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Durban, South Africa.

"I have a lot of things to do...I'm tired, I'm worn out," he told a news conference after closing a seminar on Islamic Financial Services and Products, here.

The Prime Minister said he was tired because had been going around the country lately.

He said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would represent him and deliver his speech.

Dr Mahathir said the main purpose for him attending the meeting was to meet other leaders.

"I regret I can't go," he said.

On rumours that he would call for an emergency Cabinet meeting, Dr Mahathir said: "At the moment, it is not true."

"Of course any time at all the Cabinet must be available if we have some problems to resolve," he said.

Asked if there is a pressing need for an emergency Cabinet meeting, Dr Mahathir said: "No, not very pressing, but we do not know what will happen because the world's economy seems to have collapsed."

"The menace to the country must be here to manage the country," he said, referring to a description of him by American currency speculator George Soros last year.

Soros had described Dr Mahathir as "a menace to his own country" in Hong Kong.

-- BERNAMA

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