

08 NOV 1999

Mahathir-CHOGM

DR MAHATHIR TO ATTEND THE CHOGM IN SOUTH AFRICA

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Durban, South Africa, from Nov 12 to 15.

He will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group in the Harare Commonwealth Declaration (CMAG) Tan Sri Musa Hitam, and senior officials from the Foreign, International Trade and Industry and Finance ministries.

The CHOGM is held biennially and the last meeting was held in 1997 in Edinburgh, Britain.

A Wisma Putra statement here says the special theme for this year's CHOGM, "People Centred Development: The Challenge of Globalisation", was chosen based on the recognition that the policies and activities of nations and international institutions should emphasise the objective of achieving sustained human development.

The meeting at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Durban will be opened by Queen Elizabeth on Friday.

Dr Mahathir has been given the honour to deliver the speech in reply to the welcoming address by South African President Thabo Mbeki.

On Nov 10, Dr Mahathir will deliver a keynote address entitled "Making Globalisation Work: Measures to Encourage Commonwealth Trade and Investments Flows" at the Commonwealth Business Forum in Johannesburg.

The forum, aimed at promoting practices and policies for the enhancement of trade and investment among Commonwealth countries, will be attended by chief executive officers, business leaders and politicians from member countries, the statement says.

The traditional retreat has been arranged at a resort in the southern coastal town of George during the weekend of 13-14 Nov where the Heads of Government will hold informal discussions without the presence of their officials.

The CHOGM will be preceded by a Meeting of the Committee of the Whole (COW) which will be attended by the Commonwealth senior officials on Nov 11.

The COW meeting will consider Commonwealth functional cooperation issues, the Provisional Agenda for the CHOGM and finalise other meeting arrangements.

Two other meetings will also be held prior to the heads of government meeting, namely the Thirteenth Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on the Harare Declaration (CMAG) and the Fourth Meeting of Ministerial Group on Small States.

Both meetings will take place on Nov 11, the statement adds.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government will adopt a communique on the outcome of the Durban CHOGM at the end of the meeting.

-- BERNAMA

RZS JK