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DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR SWITZERLAND TO ATTEND ECON FORUM

SEPANG, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Switzerland tonight to attend a world economic forum.

He was seen off at the KL International Airport here by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Dr Mahathir was invited to address the annual forum attended by statesmen, business leaders and academics.

The forum titled "Responsible Globality -- Managing the Impact of Globalisation" is aimed at drawing up a global economic agenda and begins in the famed Swiss resort city of Davos tomorrow.

Observers said the invitation to Dr Mahathir to attend and address the forum reflected the international community's high esteem for the Prime Minister and its conviction that he would be able to contribute his ideas to the creation of a more just and equitable economic world order.

It also reflected the acknowledgement of Malaysia's detractors that the country under Dr Mahathir's leadership had surmounted the trials and tribulations of the economic crisis which began in mid 1997.

--BERNAMA

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