

# Economic issues to dominate Dr M's visit to Indonesia

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## From Hardev Kaur in Jakarta

ECONOMIC issues, including ways to strengthen economic recovery and economic reconstruction, will take centre stage during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's two-day visit to Indonesia starting today.

Indonesia, which was very severely affected by the Asian crisis

and had to resort to help from the International Monetary Fund, is keen to learn from Malaysia which devised its **own policies**.

Observers point out that Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid admires "Dr Mahathir's financial independence and standing up to the IMF".

Malaysia is not subjected to the severe and punishing conditions that countries, including Indonesia,

Thailand and South Korea, have been subjected to, making the situation even worse than it originally was.

The role of the domestic private sector and the business community in economic recovery is also expected to be discussed during the visit. Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by a high-powered ministerial team and a 150-strong business delegation.

Dr Mahathir is the second Asean head of government to visit Indonesia since Abdurrahman was elected into office. However in terms of significance and size, the Malaysian business delegation is much larger than that led by Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in January.

The ministers accompanying the Prime Minister are Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin; Foreign

Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar; Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz; and Minister of Primary Industries Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik. The ministers will have parallel meetings with their counterparts in Jakarta. The business delegation is headed by MAS chairman

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