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Mahathir-Cuba

DR MAHATHIR TO LEAD DELEGATION TO G-77 SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will lead the Malaysian delegation to the first ever South Summit of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China in Havana from April 12-17.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar today said the summit will address the issues of globalisation, North-South relations, South-South cooperation, knowledge and technology.

The summit will be preceded by a meeting of senior officials on April 10 and of foreign ministers the next day, he told a media conference at Wisma Putra here today.

Syed Hamid, who is a member of the delegation, said the summit will provide Malaysia the opportunity to exchange views of common concern with other member countries

"Malaysia will also be able to state its position on a number of international issues, particularly on the reform of the international financial architecture, globalisation and liberation," he said.

According to Syed Hamid, Malaysia would seek greater South-South cooperation at the summit to strengthen the negotiating position of the G-77 in its dialogue with the North.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir will address the summit and raise, among other issues, globalisation and the technological advances.

He said the Havana summit is also expected to discuss preparations for the 55th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and Summit of the Millennium to be held in September.

The Havana summit, which will see the largest gathering of Heads of State and Government from 133 member developing countries, is expected to conclude with a Declaration and a Programme of Action.

On China's participation, Syed Hamid said it is a big country and it cannot be excluded following the emergence of a new world order.

"Malaysia is one country that does not like to see the end of the Cold War with just a unipolar world but I think the world needs to be a multipolar where all could cooperate to make a more equitable world or else we see developing countries on the receiving end," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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