

11 JUL 2001

McKinnon-CHOGM

COMMONWEALTH SEC-GEN CALLS ON DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, July 11 (Bernama) -- Visiting Commonwealth Secretary-General Donald McKinnon called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here, today.

During their 40-minute discussion, McKinnon briefed Dr Mahathir on the preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Brisbane, Australia, from Oct 6 to 9 this year.

Speaking at a news conference later, McKinnon said he and Dr Mahathir touched on some of the issues that would be raised at the biennial gathering.

"He (Dr Mahathir) is very much conscious of the developing countries which we are focused on. We didn't talk too much about the issues that will be brought up at the meeting but we talked generally about them," he said.

He said CHOGM was an important occasion for Commonwealth leaders, particularly those from small countries, to engage in dialogue with other leaders.

"Most leaders in the Commonwealth are of course from the developing countries. Many are facing the same problems," he said.

He said some of the issues that would feature during the Brisbane CHOGM were the impact of globalisation and trade.

McKinnon's visit to Malaysia is part of his tour of several Commonwealth countries to consult on the preparations for the meeting of leaders of former British colonies.

-- BERNAMA

FA MAM JK