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Mahathir-Summit

DR MAHATHIR TO ATTEND 7TH ASEAN SUMMIT IN BRUNEI

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will attend the 7th Asean Summit, Asean +3 and Asean +1 summits with China, Japan and South Korea in Brunei on Nov 5 and 6.

A Wisma Putra statement here says the prime minister will head a delegation comprising Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and senior officials from the relevant agencies.

Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The statement says that while in Brunei, Dr Mahathir will attend a dinner for Asean leaders on Nov 4 hosted by Sultan Hassanah Bolkuah.

On Nov 5, he will attend the 7th Asean summit, followed by lunch with the Asean +3 leaders and the Asean 3+1 Summit in the afternoon.

The following day, he will attend the Asean +1 Summit with China, Japan and Korea respectively.

The statement says Dr Mahathir will also take the opportunity to meet other leaders in bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summits.

The 7th Asean Summit will provide the opportunity for Asean leaders to access the progress of cooperation programmes among Asean member countries following the 4th Asean Informal Summit in Singapore in November 2000, it adds.

The leaders will also discuss current issues that have implications to Asean and the ways to further strengthen Asean cooperation in the areas of development, economic, trade and finance.

The statement says that the Asean+3 Summit and the Asean+1 Summit with China, Japan and Korea will provide the opportunity for the leaders to assess the progress of East Asia cooperation, following the last Asean +3 Summit and the respective Asean+1 Summit in November last year in Singapore.

The Asean+3 leaders will also take the opportunity to exchange views and further discuss ways to strengthen cooperation among countries in East Asia, the statement adds.

-- BERNAMA

AKT AHH JK