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Mahathir-NAM

COOPERATE TO AVOID TRAFFIC CONGESTION DURING NAM SUMMIT, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed satisfaction with Malaysia's preparations to host the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in February and urged the public to give their cooperation to overcome the anticipated traffic congestion problem.

The Prime Minister said today that he was quite worried about the traffic congestion that might occur here during the period of the conference.

As such, he urged the public to give their full cooperation so that they could proceed with their daily activities and at the same time make it easier for delegates to reach the conference venue.

So far all the necessary work has been done and Malaysia has drawn up a comprehensive programme in the hope that it would emerge as the best host ever.

"The major problem is about traffic...we will have more than 100 locations (places of accommodation for delegates) and they cannot reach (the conference venue) at one time. They will arrive on a staggered basis."

Dr Mahathir told a news conference this after attending a briefing on preparations to host the Summit, which will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here from Feb 15 to 28 next year.

"This means that from the hotels to PWTC roads must be opened (cleared) for them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this would cause minor traffic congestion to the public as designated routes would be closed at certain times to facilitate the journey of delegates to the conference venue.

The secretariat is aware of the problems that might arise and has agreed to start the daily meeting a little bit later, at 10am.

"This is in the hope that the public can leave for their office earlier so that roads can be closed for a short period from 8am to 10am," he said.

He urged the people to cooperate by leaving for their office early on the days the Summit was held.

"We need to show a good image to the world, that the public in Malaysia can cooperate to make a success of a conference which is quite big," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir also urged the public to extend their cooperation to the police, who will be holding a series of "trial runs" in preparation for the Summit.

Earlier, he heard briefings by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and the relevant government agencies on preparations for the Summit.

The Prime Minister also inspected the Dewan Tun Razak, which will serve as a holding room for delegates, and Dewan Merdeka, the conference hall.

-- BERNAMA

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