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MAHATHIR DECLINES CHOGM INVITATION

MELBOURNE, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has declined an invitation to attend the Commonwealth summit in the Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane next month.

Dr Mahathir has told Australia he will not attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM).

He declined the invitation for the summit scheduled for Brisbane in October last year and it is the same answer for the rescheduled Commonwealth meeting.

As with last year, Dr Mahathir has given no reason for declining to come to Australia, the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) Radio reported.

Malaysia's delegation at the Commonwealth summit will be led by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

In more than 20 years as Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir has made only one formal visit to Australia, in 1984.

-- BERNAMA

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