

Collective stand on trade and globalisation

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MBABANE (Swaziland): Top leaders of countries taking part in the Smart Partnership Global 2003 International Dialogue here will make a collective stand on the issues of trade and globalisation.

The Ezulwini Statement, which would carry their common concerns, was being fine-tuned to incorporate the opinions of all, said Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, chairman of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management, the joint dialogue convenor.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had seen the draft of the statement and was generally happy with the issues, Dr Omar told Malaysian

Reporters covering the event in Ezulwini, about 12km from here.

He said the heads of state and governments felt that as the dialogue was being held a week before the ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it was a good opportunity to state their common stand on the issues.

“Said as a group, it might mean something,” he said during the opening ceremony of the five-day dialogue on Wednesday, adding that the proposal to issue the statement was made during the leaders’ private dialogue session.

The WTO meeting is scheduled for Sept 10 in Cancun, Mexico.