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NAM: PNG PRIME MINISTER TO LEAD DELEGATION TO KL NAM SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare will lead a 16-member delegation to the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit here from Feb 20 to 25.

Emily David, director of development cooperation at PNG's Foreign Affairs and Immigration Department, said today that Somare was scheduled to arrive here on Sunday.

His delegation would include former PNG prime minister and advisor to the prime minister Sir Julius Chan and Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu, she said.

She told Bernama that Somare was expected to call call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

PNG attended a NAM summit for the first time as a full member at the 10th meeting in Jakarta in 1992.

Somare, 67, is the founding father of PNG which gained independence in 1975.

He was the first prime minister of the South Pacific island nation from 1975 to 1981 and was reelected for the 1982-1985 term. He was back at the post after 17 years in Aug 2002 following the general elections.

Papua New Guinea has a population of more than five million people speaking 850 languages and is made up of some 600 islands.

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