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PM satisfied with preparations

Kamarul Yunus; Ramlan Said

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was satisfied with the preparations for the 13th Non-Aligned Movement Summit.

Speaking after being given an update and a tour around the NAM Summit sites today, he said Malaysia was prepared to stage the major international conference although there were minor amendments to the preparations.

"From the briefing, I see that the preparations have been successful. Overall I am satisfied with the preparations," he said.

Kuala Lumpur will host the 13th NAM Summit from Feb 20-25.

To ensure smooth traffic, Dr Mahathir advised motorists to go to the office and shops early, probably an hour earlier to avoid disruption of movement for heads of state and government from their hotels to the Putra World Trade Centre, the venue of the summit.

"Several roads will be closed. It would be advisable for motorists to go to offices and shops early to avoid congestion which might affect the journey of heads of state and government," he said.

Dr Mahathir had earlier launched the 13th NAM Summit commemorative coins, stamps and first day-covers as well as a book on Malaysia's technical assistance programme.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir asked Malaysians to behave in a polite manner and try to commit themselves to ensure a successful NAM summit.

"We must not be arrogant as the outsiders will undermine us.

"As a host nation, we must give the best, for the image of the country. This will help the country achieve further success.

"Visitors would also take back good memories and remember our kind deeds for a long time," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the summit would provide Malaysia with an opportunity to showcase the country's capabilities and achievements.

"Through the summit, member countries would be able to learn from our achievements. We can also learn from them," he said.

On the souvenirs, Bank Negara is issuing three commemorative coins - gold, silver and nordic gold coins.

Pos Malaysia is selling two commemorative stamps priced at 30 sen and 50 sen as well as first-day covers and folders. It is producing about two million 30 sen and one million 50 sen stamps respectively.

It is also producing 80,000 issues of first-day covers and 1,000 folders.

Dr Mahathir also launched a book on Malaysia's technical assistance programmes at the event.

The book is published by the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department.