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DR MAHATHIR TO VACATE NAM CHAIRMANSHIP IN OCTOBER

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- Newly appointed chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will vacate his post in the 116-member movement once he resigns from his government positions in October.

"I'll be here only until October. The chairmanship is not for the individual, its for the country. So whoever leads the country will get to act as the chairman," the Malaysian prime minister told a news conference after closing the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit at the Putra World Trade Centre here last night.

Asked by a foreign journalist if "a new strong leader of NAM is sitting in front of us," Dr Mahathir said: "He is here", pointing at Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was seated beside him.

Asked further whether he would perform a miracle on NAM, as he had a done in transforming Malaysia, he said: "No, we don't believe in miracles. We have to work hard to do anything."

-- BERNAMA

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