

N123 (F)
MAHATHIR ۰'۰'۰'
BM
BY RACHMAN NORDIN

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81
KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 30 (BERNAMA)—MALAYSIA IS PREPARED TO TRAIN PEOPLE FROM POOR MUSLIM COUNTRIES TO ENABLE THEM TO WORK IN RICH ISLAMIC NATIONS, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID AMONG THE MUSLIM PEOPLE THERE WERE SOME WHO DID NOT HAVE ANY MEANS OF EARNING A LIVING. MALAYSIA WAS CONFIDENT THAT THIS PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED THROUGH PROVIDING THEM TRAINING.

AMONG THE AREAS OF TRAINING THAT MALAYSIA COULD PROVIDE WERE IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO STRESSED THAT MALAYSIA'S PLEDGE TO HELP IN THE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS TO THEIR HOMELAND DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE SENDING OF TROOPS.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN ON HIS RETURN HERE AFTER HEADING THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO THE ISLAMIC HEWDS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN TAIF, SAUDI ARABIA.

—BERNAMA MORE 2025/MD

N126 (F)
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR ۰'۰'۰'

ASKED ABOUT THE REACTION OF DELEGATES TO MALAYSIA'S OFFER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THEIR REACTION COULD NOT BE KNOWN BECAUSE THE OFFER WAS MADE IN THE FORM OF A STATEMENT ONLY AS A RESULT OF LACK OF TIME.

HOWEVER, FROM WHAT HE GATHERED IN HIS TALKS WITH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT PRESENT, THEY WELCOMED THE OFFER, HE ADDED.

REGARDING MALAYSIA'S ROLE IN SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT THE VIEWS OF A NEUTRAL THIRD PARTY COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

THIS COUNTRY FELT THAT THE SIX-NATION PEACE COMMITTEE OF WHICH IT WAS A MEMBER WAS A NEUTRAL THIRD PARTY.

MALAYSIA, HE SAID, COULD LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES BECAUSE IT DID NOT CHOOSE SIDES AND HELD A TOTALLY NEUTRAL STAND. —BERNAMA MORE 2025/MD

MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT MALAYSIA HAD NOT YET DETERMINED THE AMOUNT OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ISLAMIC CONSOLIDATION FUND BUT HAD SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

MALAYSIA'S CONTRIBUTION WOULD DEPEND ON ITS CAPABILITY, HE ADDED.

THE FUND'S CAPITAL WOULD US\$3 BILLION (ABOUT M\$6.6 BILLION MILLION) AND SAUDI ARABIA AND THE EMIRATE STATES HAD PLEDGED TO CONTRIBUTE US\$2 BILLION (ABOUT M\$4.4 BILLION), HE SAID.

HOW THE MONEY FROM THE FUND WOULD BE USED WAS STILL UNDER STUDY BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT.

ASKED ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOME OF THE TAIF MEETING, HE SAID IT WAS THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANY COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF A NATION WAS THE CAUSE OF CONFLICTS AND WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE POLICY THIS PROBLEM COULD BE REDUCED.

MALAYSIA ALSO REGRETTED THE ABSENCE OF IRAN AT THE SUMMIT MEETING, AS A RESULT OF WHICH ONLY THE VIEWS OF IRAQ COULD BE HEARD, HE ADDED. —BERNAMA 2031/MD