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SOUTH-COMMISSION

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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 8 (BERNAMA) -- DELEGATES TO THE SECOND SOUTH-SOUTH SUMMIT TODAY WELCOMED PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD'S ACCEPTANCE TO HEAD THE NEWLY SET-UP STEERING COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE SETTING UP OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF THE SOUTH ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.

IN A DECLARATION MADE AT THE END OF THE FOUR-DAY SUMMIT HERE, THEY ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE STEERING GROUP WOULD TURN THE PLANS FOR A SOUTH COMMISSION INTO +A FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMME THAT WILL COMMAND BROAD ACCEPTANCE AND SUPPORT IN THE SOUTH AND RESPOND IN PRACTICAL WAYS TO ITS MOST URGENT NEEDS.+

THE DECLARATION, DUBBED AS THE +KUALA LUMPUR STATEMENT+, ALSO PROPOSED SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE COMMISSION AIMED AT STUDYING THE DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES FACING THE DEVELOPING NATIONS.

ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION, IT SAID THE MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE LIMITED TO NOT MORE THAN 20 THIRD WORLD PERSONALITIES. THE COMMISSIONERS WOULD SERVE IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY AND NOT AS THE SPOKESMEN OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS OR INSTITUTIONS.

THE COMMISSION WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY A SMALL SECRETARIAT HEADED BY AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. -- MORE  
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THE DECLARATION SAID A SPECIFIC TIME DURATION SHOULD BE FIXED FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

ON THE STEERING GROUP, THE DECLARATION SAID THAT ITS WORK WOULD INCLUDE CONSULTATION ON MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS WORK PROGRAMME AS WELL AS IDENTIFICATION OF SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION.

THE DECLARATION SAID THE FORMATION OF THE SOUTH COMMISSION WAS NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE VITAL AND URGENT NEED FOR THE SOUTH FOR REAPPRAISE ITS POSITION AND CHART OUT A PATH FOR THE FUTURE.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION WOULD BE TO ASSESS THE PRESENT SITUATION OF THE SOUTH, IDENTIFY ITS OPTIONS, RECOMMEND CONCRETE STEPS CONCERNING FUTURE SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AS IT BORE ON BOTH SOUTH-SOUTH AND NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

IT WOULD ALSO CONSIDER ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING THIS COOPERATION, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUTH SECRETARIAT AND ALSO HELP MOBILISE PUBLIC AWARENESS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH ABOUT THEIR POSITION AND THE CHALLENGES CONFRONTING THEM. --  
BERNAMA  
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