

▼01/09/18-03MST
U GE 01-09 00197 EA410
aae tbe

TIME FOR NAM TO CHANGE, SAYS MAHATHIR
Mahathir-NAM
from Zukiman Zain (12)

JAKARTA, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- The moment of truth has come for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to change lest it became a misnomer in the post-Cold War era, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Addressing the 10th NAM Summit at the Jakarta Convention Centre here, the Prime Minister said recent history clearly showed that a unipolar world was every bit as threatening as a bipolar one.

+Apart from the tragic helplessness of Bosnia, we see international laws and ethical codes being ground into the dust by the powerful and the mighty,+ he added.

Dr Mahathir listed the many violations of international behaviour by the rich and powerful like sending soldiers to capture and bring back the head of a government for trial under its law, applying its law over the weak and curtailing economies of many countries with various instruments.

He said: +Where, before, the internal affairs of a country are not to be interfered with by other countries, now a right is claimed for such affairs.

-- more

▼01/09/20-18MST
U GE 01-09 00207 EA411
aae tbe

Mahathir-NAM 2 Jakarta

+While the weak are in no position to examine the record of the strong, there is no limit to the judgment and subsequent incursions by the powerful.

+Internationally, far from moving closer to the rule of law following upon the end of the Cold War, the trend is towards the arbitrary exercise of judgments and actions by those in a position to judge and execute.+

As such, Dr Mahathir said, NAM needed to pool what little strength it had +to avoid a revival of the old Western colonialism+.

+It is not a case of confronting anyone. This group is not in a position to confront. But, we need to protect ourselves. Protection needs some strength.

+NAM may have to be renamed to reflect its new role in a unipolar world. NAM must have a new set of principles. NAM must be given new objectives.+

Dr Mahathir, whose 15-minute speech attracted much attention said member countries must not subscribe to the view that the movement was anachronistic.

NAM was relevant but in a way that was very different from the period of the Cold War, he added. -- more

▼01/09/20-19MST

CNS5019

U GE 01-09 00173 EA412

aae tbe

Mahathir-NAM 3 Jakarta

He said to deal with the threats and challenges of the unipolar world, members need to cling even more closely to one another.

+Together, we may sustain our independence and integrity. We must decide ourselves or the decision will be made for us by others,+ he added.

Dr Mahathir said the summit, which is taking place for the first time after the end of the Cold War, provided the opportunity to chart a new course and direction in ensuring an effective and meaningful role in the changing international environment.

He added that Malaysia believed that in planning for NAM's future direction, some serious considerations must be given to tangible co-operation in non-political areas, especially economic co-operation and trade among developing countries.

+Malaysia is fully committed to the Non-Aligned Movement's Action Plan for Economic Co-operation and the appeal made at the last summit for member countries to assist and encourage greater South-South cooperation,+ he said.

-- more

▼01/09/20-19MST

CNS5020

U GE 01-09 00161 EA413

aae tbe

Mahathir-NAM 4 (last) Jakarta

He said the foundation for trade and economic co-operation within the South laid by G-15 should be of interest and benefit to the other members.

Dr Mahathir also said just as NAM must change, so too must the United Nations.

+The victors of World War Two cannot be allowed to permanently affect the relative positions of the nations of the world. New forces have emerged which must be acknowledged,+ he added.

He said the composition of the Security Council might be justified in the immediate post-World War Two but not now as it represented disregard for democracy in international affairs.

+It denies the rights of the majority. We do not need more permanent members with veto rights. We need fair representation, if not on a basis of population, at least on a basis of a combination of relevant factors,+ he added. -- Bernama

▼01/09/20-20MST