

CNS1563

U GE 14-09 00161 EF537

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MALAYSIA PLEDGES TO ASSIST YOUNG NAMIBIA

Mahathir - Nujoma

EMBARGO (FOR RELEASE AFTER 10pm)

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 14 (Bernama) -- Malaysia tonight pledged to make modest contributions to complement nation building efforts by Namibia, a young nation that gained independence two years ago.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gave the pledge at a dinner for visiting Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma at his official residence Seri Perdana here.

Despite being a young nation, Dr Mahathir was confident Namibia would grow and become economically strong.

He said: "Namibia is a country richly endowed with natural resources and therefore, has the necessary ingredients to succeed economically. There is enough for everyone to share."

"We have no doubt that through the prudent policies initiated by your government, Namibia will successfully surmount its present difficulties brought about by the worst drought to have hit the country," he said. -- more

▼14/09/19-30MST

CNS1565

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Mahathir - Nujoma 2 Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

The Namibian President arrived this afternoon to begin a four-day state visit to Malaysia at the head of a 12-member delegation which includes four Cabinet Ministers.

Dr Mahathir was confident that discussions between both parties during the visit would identify areas of cooperation that would enhance relations between Malaysia and Namibia.

"Although, at present economic interaction between two countries is minimal, the abundance of natural resources in Namibia and Malaysia's expertise in different fields of industrial production and our endeavour to achieve a better life for our peoples, should enable us to complement each other in many areas," he said.

In pledging Malaysia's contributions to help Namibia's nation building efforts, Dr Mahathir said there were parallels between Malaysia and Namibia.

"We are both multi-racial developing countries driven by the urgency to achieve economic growth with equity," he said. -- more

▼14/09/19-36MST

CNS1567

U GE 14-09 00208 EF539

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Mahathir - Nujoma 3 Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

As developing countries, the Prime Minister said, Malaysia and Namibia were vulnerable to changes in the global, political and economic scene.

Dr Mahathir said the high expectations for an equitable and just world order after the end of the Cold War had been +shortlived+.

Instead of seeing the evolution of fair play and a scrupulous respect for principles of international relations, he said some countries had resorted to arbitrary and unilateral actions to impose their values and will on other states.

In the economic field, various forms of non-tariff barriers had been erected and new elements like intellectual property, local contents and discriminatory taxes were introduced that had impeded world trade and seriously affecting the economies of developing countries..

+Such a development to say the least is worrisome. The dividend of peace and security from the end of the Cold War remains a mere hope.+

+The weaker countries are now increasingly finding themselves in a difficult situation having to submit themselves to this version of the new world order and economic trade system as advocated and practiced by certain leaders in the West,+ he said. -- more

14/09/19-38MST

CNS1571

U GE 14-09 00163 EF540

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Mahathir - Nujoma 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

In view of these challenges, Dr Mahathir said there was a need for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) members to remain united and NAM be a vibrant organisation to contribute to a just world order.

+NAM must strive to forge a new global consensus and commitment to strengthen international economic cooperation,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir also voiced his concern over problems in South Africa, Namibia's neighbour, saying that the initial optimism on reforms under the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) had now given way to +serious concern+ about prospects for a peaceful transition to majority rule.

He said : +We urge the Pretoria regime to undertake immediate action to revive the negotiating process under CODESA and to work within a specified time frame towards establishment of an interim government for an eventual realisation of a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.--- Bernama

CNS1640

U GE 14-09 00173 ED707

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Mahathir-Nujoma 5 Kuala Lumpur (re-opens item)

In his speech, Nujoma said Namibia was keen to learn from Malaysia, especially in the field of town planning, housing and rural development.

He said the republic was impressed with Malaysia's progress and was interested to adopt Malaysia's development programmes as its model.

+Now that Namibia is independent, we will spare no efforts to develop Namibia,+ he said.

He suggested that Malaysia and Namibia formalise agreements to facilitate bilateral trade as well as to promote investments between the two countries.

Nujoma also suggested the formulation of suitable programmes to place Namibians in Malaysia to undergo vocational training and education here.

To promote greater friendship between Namibians and Malaysians, he suggested the abolishment of visa requirement for both countries.

The Namibian president also expressed his +deepest appreciation for Malaysia's role in the liberation of Namibia.

Namibia looked forward to closer working relations with Malaysia under the South-South cooperation, he said. -- Bernama

▼14/09/23-42MST

▼14/09/22-43MST

CNS1635

U GE 14-09 00168 ED706

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Attn editors: rptg adding dropped words in para 1

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▼14/09/23-15MST