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G-15-Abdullah

G-15 REJECTS EXTRA-TERRITORIAL LAWS OF ANY NATION, SAYS ABDULLAH

By: Kuah Goon Oo

HARARE, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- The group of 15 developing nations (G-15) rejects the unilateral action of any country to enact extra-territorial laws to be submitted to by all nations and their enterprises, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

They made the rejection during the plenary session of the sixth summit of G-15 which began yesterday, he said when briefing newsmen after the meeting.

He said the leaders of the grouping would continue to discuss this important issue during their retreat at Victoria Falls later today.

The three-day summit is being attended by seven heads of state/government, two vice presidents, three foreign ministers and three envoys.

They are Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia of Algeria, Vice President Dr Carlos Ruckauf of Argentina, Vice President Marco Marciel of Brazil, Ambassador Jorge Berguno of Chile, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Prime Minister Deve Gowda of India, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas of Indonesia, Prime Minister P. Patterson of Jamaica, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Foreign Minister Jose Gurria of Mexico, Foreign Minister T. Ikimi of Nigeria, Ambassador J. Meier of Peru, Prime Minister Habib Thiam of Senegal, special envoy Werner Corrales of Venezuela and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

Abdullah said the leaders were of the view that the summit was evident that the grouping was relevant and that it had acted as a catalyst for South-South cooperation.

The projects launched by the G-15 had succeeded in fostering bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In this respect, they hoped that the grouping would continue playing its role to assist other developing nations since they had the capacities, technology and resources to do so.

The leaders felt that countries of the South should not depend solely on the developed nations to assist them. They should instead pool their resources and efforts to assist the other developing countries.

He said the leaders also discussed the World Trade Organisation and its forthcoming ministerial meeting, saying that they should be prepared to face any new issues that the developed nations would bring up.

These leaders also agreed that the G-15 should have a ministerial meeting to coordinate their stand before the WTO meeting in Singapore next month.

Abdullah said these leaders would, among other things, decide on the next chairman of the grouping after Malaysia during their overnight retreat at Victoria Falls. Their choice is between Mexico and Jamaica.

Malaysia has agreed to take over the chairmanship from Zimbabwe since Indonesia is having its general election next year. The understanding is that Indonesia will take over the chairmanship from Malaysia when it is Kuala Lumpur's turn to do so.

Abdullah said the leaders would also decide on new membership to the six-year old organisation and the frequency of the summit, which is an annual affair at present. -- BERNAMA

KGO AAM