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Anyaoku-Nigeria

LIFTING OF SUSPENSION ON NIGERIA TO BE DECIDED SOON

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- The lifting of suspension imposed on Nigeria will be determined soon once the dialogue between the Commonwealth and the Nigerian government is completed, said Commonwealth's Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku today.

"Dialogue between Nigeria and the Commonwealth had begun and the lifting of suspension will be determined in due course in the light of the dialogue," he told newsmen soon after arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang.

He said the Nigerian government had invited the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group to visit the country for continuation of dialogue, and consultations were now taking place between the two parties with a view of finalising details of the visit.

Anyaoku said the action group was consulting with Nigeria on detailed arrangements of the visit, and he hoped that the consultation would result in the visit taking place at the end of this month.

"I would expect that the visit will review the latest developments and those relating to Nigeria's progress of meeting to the requirements of Harare's Commonwealth Declaration," he said.

"And the Commonwealth attitude towards Nigeria will be reviewed in the light of that experience during the visit," he added.

Anyaoku said that Malaysia had played a very important role in the Commonwealth, and recently former Foreign Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie led a team observing the elections in Bangladesh.

He said in many areas of Commonwealth cooperation, Malaysia had played a very leading role.

"So I am gladly looking forward to reviewing all these with the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other senior ministers of the Malaysian government during my visit," he said.

Anyaoku, who is accompanied by his wife, was met in arrival by Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail who is also President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which is holding its 42nd conference here for five days beginning today. -- BERNAMA

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