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NAM-Malaysia

TERRORISM, CURRENCY CRISIS TO BE GIVEN EQUAL TREATMENT

By: E.Sivabalan

DURBAN, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today expressed confidence that the terrorism issue will not overshadow the other equally important issues such as the currency crisis at the 12th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit beginning here tomorrow.

Foreign Ministry deputy secretary-general Datuk N.Parameswaran said although the summit was being hosted by an African country, the fact that recent terrorist acts happened in Africa did not mean the issue would dominate the summit.

"South Africa is also being attacked now by currency speculators. So, they too will be interested in the subject," he said when briefing Malaysian journalists on Malaysia's preparations for the summit.

Parameswaran will lead the Malaysian delegation to the two-day senior officials meeting tomorrow. NAM foreign ministers will then hold their two-day meeting beginning Monday.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will join his counterparts from other developing nations at the summit. Dr Mahathir is expected to raise the financial and economic turmoil issue at the summit.

Parameswaran said Malaysia would get the host country (South Africa) to be involved in the currency crisis issue and ensure that the issue was included in the summit's final document and the Vision 2001 Declaration.

Analysts said many African countries of the 113-member NAM would focus their attention on the terrorism issue after American interests in South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania came under alleged terrorist attacks recently.

Parameswaran also said Malaysia would support Sudan's proposal that the United Nations conduct a probe to see if the United State's missile attack in Khartoum on Aug 20 was justified.

"We will continue to deplore terrorism at the summit. We oppose terrorism in any form, whoever the perpetrators are," said Parameswaran.

He said Malaysia would also call for a peaceful solution to the Spratlys issue in Southeast Asia.

On NAM, he said Malaysia would continue to support the movement despite certain quarters arguing that NAM should only be an economic organisation for the developing nations.

"We want NAM to remain as the political and economic organisation of the developing countries," he said.

On the summit's final document, Parameswaran said Malaysia was upset when South Africa left out Southeast Asia in the document.

"But it has since been included and South Africa has also made some additions to the draft of the final document," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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