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G77-Poverty

POVERTY AMONG REASONS WHY IDEAS CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED, SAYS G-77
CHAIRMAN

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Group of 77 (G-77) chairman Chief Arthur C.I. Mbanefo said today that poverty and economic difficulties are among reasons why most ideas brought about by the G-77 countries during international meetings could not be implemented.

He said it was sad that some of the good ideas were left unattended.

"These difficulties sometimes make us look up at people who gave us temporary solutions," he told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's office here.

Mbanefo was leading participants of a seminar on "Globalisation and South-South Cooperation" which ended here today.

The closed-door seminar-cum-brainstorming session was jointly organised by the G-77 and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and supported by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia.

The three-day seminar touched on two major issues of concern to developing countries -- globalisation and South-South cooperation.

On their meeting with Dr Mahathir, he said, the Prime Minister was briefed on the outcome of the seminar and in return, participants were given complementary information on globalisation.

"The information given by Dr Mahathir made us open our eyes on the overall impact of globalisation and its adverse impact on people," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir was patient enough to listen to points of particular interest from the participants.

Asked on proposals made at the seminar, Mbanefo said it was suggested that developing countries address their own weaknesses such as their own capacity building and their ability to represent their collective position and improve coherence through better coordination of the different chapters for the G-77.

It was also suggested that developing countries advocate the values to which they are committed in the context of international relations, he said.

Also present at the meeting was ISIS Chairman and CEO Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee.

-- BERNAMA

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