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OIC-Niger

SOLIDARITY, SHARING THE WAY FORWARD FOR MUSLIM UMMAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 30 (Bernama) -- Solidarity and the spirit of sharing are two elements that can contribute towards propelling the Muslim community forward, Niger Foreign Minister Nassirou Sabo said today.

He said there was great wealth as well as abject poverty within the Islamic world and this situation should not have happened.

"In the eyes of Islam, this is not possible given that we have the human and natural resources. We have everything. We just need to pull ourselves together," he told BERNAMA on the sidelines of the 27th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) here. The four-day meeting ends today.

Echoing what was highlighted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his opening speech on Tuesday, Sabo said to achieve success, Muslim countries should move in the direction of new technology because should they choose to avoid it, they would always be overtaken by the West.

Speaking in French, the minister said he was impressed with what he saw during his stay here and would like his country to emulate Malaysia's progressive outlook.

This is the second time Kuala Lumpur is hosting the meeting of the 56-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Foreign Ministers, the first in 1974.

Mahawa Bangoura Camara, Sabo's counterpart from another French-speaking country Guinea, said she saw a clear will on the part of Islamic countries attending the meeting to put the various resolutions into practice, especially those pertaining to economy and development.

She said given that it would be somewhat difficult to iron out problems of political nature in the OIC, it would be wise for Islamic countries to work on developing their economic and trade relations.

On bilateral relations between Conakry and Kuala Lumpur, the mother of three said it was moving in the right direction, expressing the hope that partnerships between the two countries be increased.

"I've conveyed to Foreign Minister (Datuk Seri) Syed Hamid Albar that the government of Guinea, particularly President Lansana Conte, pays great attention to bilateral cooperation between both sides," she said.

She said communication and agriculture were among the sectors Malaysia was involved in her country.

Camara said the development in Malaysia served as a good example for her country.

"It is a motivation and Guinea is taking note of what's happening in Malaysia to enable us to move in the same direction," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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