

07/09/2001

South Africa keen to enhance co-operation with Malaysia

Firdaus Abdullah in Durban, South Africa

SOUTH Africa will further enhance its co-operation and relationship with Malaysia, particularly in matters of mutual interest and concerns such as globalisation.

"Globalisation and its impact on developing countries, is of great concern to us," South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said.

Speaking to the head of the Malaysian delegation to the World Conference Against Racism, Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, in a brief meeting before the latter left for Kuala Lumpur, Dlamini-Zuma said South Africa also wished to engage in positive discussions with Kuala Lumpur pertaining to other matters of international concern.

Expressing her profound appreciation for Malaysia's support and high-level participation in the on-going World Conference here, the foreign minister said Kuala Lumpur's participation in the WCAR is of great significance to the host nation.

"We thank you and your Government under Premier Mahathir (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) for making it to Durban, ... it means a great deal to us and to the global challenge against racism and its related intolerances," she told Khalil.

Touching on the abrupt withdrawal of the US and Israel from the conference, Dlamini-Zuma said:

"There's nothing much that we can do if they decide to pull out, but we will pull together all the resources to ensure that the conference will end on a positive note".

Khalil, who is also the Information Minister, told Dlamini-Zuma that he was very keen to further explore and maybe learn from the extensive media coverage of the conference by the host nation's broadcaster, the South African Broadcast Corporation or SABC.

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