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Syed Hamid-NAM

MALAYSIA HOPES TO MAKE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT MORE RELEVANT

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia wants to make the 50-year-old Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) more relevant in the global world of the 21st century.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said this would be Malaysia's goal when it takes over chairmanship and hosts the heads of state summit next February.

Foreign ministers of the movement asked Malaysia to lead the grouping next year when they met in Durban, South Africa, last month.

As soon as the Malaysian delegation returned from Durban, Wisma Putra set up a committee and sub-committees to start planning the heads of state summit.

Syed Hamid Albar said Wisma Putra would present a detailed briefing on the latest developments on the preparations to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a few weeks.

Malaysia had also chosen a theme which would enhance the organisation, he told Bernama in a interview yesterday.

With 114 members, the membership was roughly two-thirds the size of the United Nations and therefore has potential, he said.

However, that potential had to be harnessed.

"We will choose the theme of the future direction of the Non-Aligned Movement in a global world and era of the borderless world. Is it still relevant and does it still have a role to play in facing the 21st century?" he said.

While politics was the prime mover for NAM, Syed Hamid it was important for the body to play a role in trade, investment and the economy.

-- BERNAMA

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