

24 FEB 2003

NAM-SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR INTERIM SECRETARIAT TO SUPPORT NAM BUSINESS COUNCIL

By: Leslean Arshad

PETALING JAYA, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Sunway group corporate adviser Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam has proposed that Malaysia set up an interim Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) business secretariat to implement the policies and decisions of the proposed NAM Business Council.

He said the host of the proposed secretariat could be on a rotation basis, given the opposition from some quarters to have a permanent secretariat.

Speaking to Bernama on the sidelines of the NAM Business Summit here today, Navaratnam said Malaysia should establish the interim business secretariat as soon as possible to serve the business council.

He also said the interim Malaysian business secretariat must be in excellent shape to be the prototype for other countries to emulate when it came to their turn to host it.

"No point in having many policies, principles and co-operation agreements if you don't have the secretariat to follow-up, follow through and implement them. It's like a government making decisions and no civil servants (to implement them)," Navaratnam said.

He said the day-to-day operations of the NAM Business Council could be run by the secretariat.

Other countries could also send their representatives to work in the Malaysian secretariat.

"In that way, you will have a strong secretariat," Navaratnam said.

Malaysian prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday proposed the formation of a business council for NAM to enable the movement's businessmen to work together. -- BERNAMA

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