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NAM-Malaysia

MALAYSIA ABLE TO LEAD NAM, SAY OFFICIALS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia, with the first-class intellectual capability, is capable of leading the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for the next three years, officials said today.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Egypt Mohamed Ezzeldine said Malaysia had proven its ability in modernising the country, managing a sound economy and good access to high technology.

"All these track records coupled with the remarkable leadership could benefit NAM member countries," he told BERNAMA when the NAM Senior Officials' Meeting adjourned for lunch.

Ezzeldine said Malaysia was well respected in the international circle and it was very significant that the 114 members of NAM had chosen Malaysia to lead the movement.

"We are glad that Malaysia will lead NAM at this critical juncture with the heavy responsibility in view of the tough challenges the movement is facing," he said.

Echoing Ezzeldine's sentiment, his Iranian counterpart Khoshroo Gholamali said Malaysia would be in a better position to bring consensus among member countries in dealing with issues affecting them.

He said this was important because NAM agreements were achieved through consensus.

Malaysia had successfully positioned itself as a respected nation in the United Nations and Asia as well as among the Muslim countries, he said.

"All these will have an impact on the member countries. Although your Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) will be retiring this October, I believe his successor will continue the good leadership to lead NAM," he said.

Claudio Rojas, Counsellor of the Mission of Chile at the United Nations, said Malaysia had succeeded in dealing with its economic and social issues, thus this experience could contribute to member countries.

He said Malaysia had also proven its capability in maintaining peace and security in the country which could be shared by other countries.

"There is not even an iota of doubt that Malaysia can lead the movement in the next three years as its track record speaks well." he added.

-- BERNAMA

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