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Mahathir-NAM

NAM TO FORGE CLOSER RELATIONS AMONG DEVELOPING NATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the main objective in holding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit now is to forge closer relations among developing countries to face increasing global challenge.

"The world, which previously were quarrelling between one another and posing problems to us, are now united and creating even bigger problems to us and other developing nations," he said.

Speaking at the launch of the NAM Commemorative Coins, Commemorative Stamps, First Day Covers and the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) book at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here today, Dr Mahathir said NAM was more a movement for developing nations because developed countries were actually not neutral.

"Now we find that developed nations are no longer in confrontation with each other. They are united and move as though in one group," he said.

NAM is a movement of non-aligned countries comprising 114 member nations and Kuala Lumpur will host the 13th summit of the movement on Feb 20-25.

Referring to the NAM Summit, Dr Mahathir said it was the government's hope that the basic objectives of the movement's establishment could be achieved at the conference in Kuala Lumpur.

He said that at the same time, the country also benefited in terms of promoting the diverse Malaysian culture and highlighting the capability of its multi-racial people to live together in harmony and peacefully.

"To a certain extent, this will influence those who are quarrelling among themselves to resolve their problems immediately," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the NAM delegates would bring home sweet memories with the various souvenirs to commemorate the historic day.

He said that the NAM Summit would also give Malaysia an opportunity to show to the world the developments it had achieved.

Referring to the MTCP, Dr Mahathir said it aimed to explain to the world the cooperation carried out by Malaysia with foreign countries involving visits and exchange programmes for officers, staff and experts.

MTCP was launched in 1980 in efforts to share experience among developing countries in line with the South-South cooperative spirit and 133 countries have now participated in the programme.

Dr Mahathir then reminded the public to show a positive attitude and to be friendly to the country's visitors during the NAM conference as it also involved the nation's image.

"If we are proud and don't entertain them well, I'm afraid the conference will not only fail to give sweet memories, they will also look down on us as the host," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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