

19 MAY 2003

Nasyo-Mahathir

NASYO TO WRITE TO DR MAHATHIR TO REQUEST GOVT'S HELP

KUALA LUMPUR, May 19 (Bernama) -- The Non-Aligned Students and Youth Organisation (Nasyo) will write to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to request the government's approval to establish Nasyo's headquarters in Malaysia, following its decision to vacate its present headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.

Nasyo deputy general secretary and head of foreign affairs N.Bossoondoyal said today that he conveyed Nasyo's plans to the prime minister when they met briefly during the National Youth Day celebrations at the Putra Stadium, Bukit Jalil, last Thursday.

"We still consider Kuala Lumpur as the best place (for the headquarters) as it will provide us the opportunity to work more enthusiastically as the NAM (Non-Aligned Movement), which our principles are based on, is also being chaired by Malaysia," he told Bernama in an interview here.

He said he also planned to meet Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein to brief them on Nasyo's plans to establish its headquarters in Malaysia.

Bossoondoyal, who is also a vice-president of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), said Nasyo was looking into moving its headquarters from Baghdad because it was no longer conducive to operate in the current security and political situation in Iraq.

The Nasyo head office was damaged in the US-led invasion of Iraq and its equipment, including some presented by Malaysian youth bodies, was looted.

Nasyo was established in Baghdad in April 1993 and has affiliated members in 100 countries. It has no links with NAM and operates independently.

Nasyo, which contributes to promoting the principles of non-aligned policy, is an international organisation comprising students and youth bodies which fight for gender equality, peace and disarmament and is against imperialism, colonialism and racism, among others.

The organisation has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc).

RV AHH JK