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NAM-Success

A SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT, SAY NAM LEADERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- The 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit ended last night with leaders representing the various regions in the 47-year-old movement hailing the six-day event a great success.

In their concluding remarks before the close of the summit by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the leaders made special mention of the Malaysian hospitality and the excellent way the movement's Chair had organised the event.

Guyana Foreign Minister Samuel Hinds, who spoke on behalf of the Latin America and the Caribbean region, said members of his delegation were touched by the Malaysians' hospitality.

Wanting to aptly express his heartfelt gratitude to the summit host and its people, Hinds said Thank You in Bahasa Malaysia, the national language of Malaysia.

"Terima kasih dan selamat berjaya (thank you and all the best)," he said to the delight of leaders attending the closing ceremony and members of the media, who were following the proceedings live on a closed-circuit television at the International Media Centre at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), the summit venue.

In reply, Dr Mahathir thanked the leaders for their kind words to Malaysia and himself.

After witnessing the spectacular cultural show at the NAM Summit dinner last night, Hinds said he noted the rich colours of Malaysian culture which in itself was a reflection of the movement's richness in diversity.

Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma spoke representing Africa while Cyprus' Permanent Representative to the United Nations Soto Zackheos represented NAM member countries in Europe.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Michael Somare described the summit as "very successful" despite differences of opinion among member states.

"The Prime Minister's (Dr Mahathir) summing up was very excellent. NAM under Malaysia will make an impact on global issues. It has been successful," he said.

Somare also praised Malaysia for the excellent hosting of the summit.

"It was really well organised...really top class, the people were good and there was punctuality," he said.

Commenting on Dr Mahathir's closing speech, Somare said he agreed with Dr Mahathir that unity was very important for the movement to move forward in facing challenges ahead.

"With NAM, we have unity, which is something I believe an excellent concept of either small or big countries coming together for the common cause for our people," he said.

Togo Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Roland Kpotsra said it was a well-prepared and a good summit.

"We from Africa really appreciate the hospitality given by the government and the people," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir was right in emphasising unity as without that important element, the movement cannot face the challenges ahead.

"The summit fulfilled our expectations...even ahead of expectation. And I think we need to remain united and coordinated," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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