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NAM-Pakistan (Issues)

TACKLE ISSUES AFFECTING NAM ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS, SAYS PAKISTAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) should try to address issues affecting member nations on a continuous basis, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mian Khurshid Mehmud Kasuri, said today.

He said if these issues were addressed just "once in three years in the form of slogans", it would only bring publicity to the leaders and would not change the fate of the people.

"If you want to change the fate of the people, you must address the issues seriously. So, if NAM wishes to be taken seriously, then it must address issues which are relevant," he said in an exclusive interview with Bernama ahead of the NAM ministerial meeting tomorrow.

The 13th NAM Summit began in the Malaysian capital yesterday with the senior officials meeting. The summit proper is on Monday and Tuesday.

Mehmud Kasuri said the issues included reducing poverty in the Third World, especially in South Asia, ameliorating socio-economic indicators and reducing the adverse trade terms currently in favour of the developed world.

"All this is easier said than done, just like a slogan. But for the slogan to be translated into reality, you need a dedicated group of people, and hopefully with some mechanism available to them, those issues can be addressed," he added.

On another note, he called on Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to continue sharing his wisdom with other developing countries on how to go about developing themselves.

He said that since Dr Mahathir had been vocal and proven right on many international issues, the developing countries were hopeful that he would provide the leadership in steering NAM towards a better future.

-- BERNAMA

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