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Preparations for summit to be completed in a week, says CEO

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Preparations for the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit at the Putra World Trade Centre are now "95 per cent complete", with the operational team now concentrating on "touch-ups", PWTC chief executive officer Datuk Yaakob Mohammad said today.

He said all work for the event should be completed in a week and that a special inhouse training for staff was currently being conducted.

"We are training them in customer service, how to behave well and even use proper body language in order to serve foreign guests," he said at a behind-the-scenes preparation briefing for the Press here.

Workers were seen sprucing up main areas of the summit today such as the main hall (Dewan Merdeka) and the holding room for delegates, where brand new furniture were being placed in position and equipment checked.

One of the new equipment specially brought in for the NAM summit is the latest version of the Brahler system which will be installed for sessions in the main hall as well as interactive sessions.

The system, which was requested by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will allow for those seated at the head table to see a delegate speaking in the hall through embedded monitors, along with the delegate's name and country as soon as he or she presses the microphone button.

Yaakob said RM2 million was spent on the renovations, upgrading and decorative work.

"We have also hired 800 additional staff to our 250 permanent staff in conjunction with the summit."

Yaakob said for the duration of the summit, the total number of meals that would be prepared by the PWTC chefs and kitchen staff totalled 112,900, with food provisions estimated at 82,000kg of chicken, beef and seafood.