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No word on Peace Malaysia's request as yet

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The People's Alliance for Peace Malaysia or Peace Malaysia secretariat has yet to receive a response from the Non-Aligned Movement summit secretariat on its request to send a representative to the summit.

Peace Malaysia had submitted the request to both the NAM secretariat and the Malaysian Government as the host country.

Working committee co-ordinator Zulkifli Alwi said both secretariats were still in discussion on the matter.

"As our request is an extraordinary one, there is a lot of co-ordination that needs to be done. We are still working on it."

"We are asking for a special slot where our representative will present the memorandum to all heads of state present at the summit," he said.

Zulkifli, who is also Umno Youth assistant secretary, said the secretariat hoped that points from the memorandum would be adopted into the discussion by heads of state and incorporated into the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, expected to be tabled at the end of the summit.

He said the memorandum will be handed over to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the NAM chairman, together with the signatures of an estimated one million Malaysians during the Malaysian Peace Rally on Feb 23.

Zulkifli said the first draft of the memorandum has been completed, but it was still too early to talk about its contents.

He hoped that the memorandum would contain pertinent and strong points which would be taken into consideration by the leaders.

He was speaking after receiving a courtesy call by a delegation from the province of Bangka Belitung in Indonesia.

The six-member delegation was led by the president of the province Youth Movement Johan Murod and Speaker of the provincial assembly H. Emron Pangkapi.

The visit is aimed at establishing and strengthening ties between both organisations as well as exploring business opportunities.

The Peace Malaysia programme was initiated by Umno Youth as part of the activities held in conjunction with the NAM summit, to be held in Kuala Lumpur from Feb 20 to 25.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein is the patron of the campaign.

The programme will feature a series of events - seminars, workshops and forums - to generate greater public awareness of the various conflicts in the world today.

More than 100,000 members of political bodies, youth associations, voluntary bodies and non-governmental organisations are also expected to attend the Malaysian Peace Rally.