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Testing time for movement to close ranks and deliver

AFRICA

IT is a world where the foreign policies of certain powerful nations cast frightening shadows over international peace and security, and it poses a real test for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in terms of its relevance and unity.

Namibian President Dr Samuel Danial Nujoma, who represented Africa at the opening of the 13th NAM Summit yesterday, said only a cohesive and united NAM could represent the poor and developing nations effectively.

Expressing his confidence in Malaysia and in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's ability to take the movement to greater heights, he pledged Africa's unwavering support for Kuala Lumpur's chairmanship of the movement over the next three years.

"Africa is passing the gavel to Asia under trying international circumstances. It is doing so at a time when our unity of purpose is being tested. A time which places a collective demand upon us all to strengthen our international solidarity.

"What will strengthen and enhance the relevance of NAM is the full implementation of the decisions that we make, taking into account the on-going changes in the international arena," Nujoma said.