

Malaysia To Continue Its Role In Uniting Asian-African Countries - Ahmad Shabery Bernama

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From Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah

JAKARTA, April 22 (Bernama) -- Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said Malaysia will continue to play a role in making countries in the continent of Asia and Africa to be more united.

"We will continue to play a role in supporting any form of forum, dialogue and so on in order to make these countries more united," he told reporters after the Asia Africa Conference 60th Anniversary Commemoration (AACC) Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta, Wednesday.

Commenting on the AACC, Ahmad Shabery believed that this year's Asian-African summit was very significant as it commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Afro-Asian conference, which was first held in Bandung in 1955.

"At that time, there were many countries that still did not achieve their independence and the conference had actually driven the people and leaders of these countries to gain independence," he said.

The minister said that even at that time, Malaysia itself had yet to achieve independence and Indonesia managed to organise the Bandung conference, which had discussed the struggle for independence.

"After that, we know many countries achieved independence and until now, only one agenda remains to be discussed at this year's conference, that is Palestine which is supposed to be a nation but has yet to achieve its independence.

"That is why in this year's conference, we can see a lot of countries have mentioned about this struggle which is will the main priority of discussions," he said.

However, after independence, Ahmad Shabery said:"It does not mean that everything has been done, to exude the meaning of national independence is more important since many independent countries are still shackled by poverty, hunger, health and education problems.

"As mentioned by Indonesian President Joko Widodo during the official opening of the conference, namely the gap between developed and under-developed countries is still too large and this needs to be improved," he said.

Ahmad Shabery said that the present international system was still seen as not giving a fair space.

He said there were countries that held veto powers which had put down the majority voice

of countries that did not have such power.

He added due to that, there was a demand to reform international bodies but it certainly required a uniformity of thinking especially among the great powers.

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