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ALBANIA SUPPORTS ANY EFFORT TO END BOSNIAN CONFLICT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 (Bernama) ⁹⁴ -- Albania today supported Malaysia's suggestion that a new effort along the lines of the Cambodian peace plan be introduced to end the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Its president, Dr Sali Berisha, said he welcomed any international effort to end the conflict which according to him had continued due to the inter-blocking stance of those involved.

"All international efforts to stop the conflict should be greeted and be very much welcomed," he told a press conference at the close of the second day of his four-day official visit to Malaysia.

Dr Berisha, who arrived here yesterday with a 14-member delegation, will leave for Langkawi tomorrow. He will depart for Brunei on Thursday.

In his discussion with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, the two leaders had, among others, touched on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Albanian president was informed that Malaysia was keen on the new effort to end the Balkan conflict. -- more

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▼25/01/20-43MST

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Asked whether the Balkan war had any effect on his country, Dr Berisha admitted that "the war is very troublesome" but he was confident that it would not cause any problem to Albania's effort to woo more foreign investors.

"Of course the shadow of the war is very troublesome but the Albanian policy is a peaceful one. It is a policy of prevention of conflict, policy of stability and this is a great encouragement for investors to come," he said.

He said the Serbs was still the real aggressor "but there are also great effort to limit the conflict, to stop the conflict and to block the aggression."

On his visit here, Dr Berisha said it was very successful as both countries had agreed to strenghten cooperation in various fields with Malaysia agreeing to assist Albania in defence, housing and also technical aspects.

He was very optimistic that his visit, to reciprocate the one made to Albania by Dr Mahathir last July, "had opened another page in our friendship and cooperation."

Dr Berisha said the five agreements signed yesterday between the two countries would facilitate Malaysian investors to Albania, upgrade technical cooperation and also create a real legal basis for further cooperation.

On Malaysian investors' participation in a joint-venture project to establish a free trade zone in Albania, he hoped it would attract more foreign investors into the country.

At present, a few Malaysian companies had shown keen interest to invest in Albania like in textile, banking, tourism and also to provide infrastructure, he added.

He however admitted that since Dr Mahathir's visit, none of the companies had started any projects but he was confident that they would do so soon.

Dr Berisha also spoke of the possibility of sending more students to Malaysia. He earlier met about 50 Albanian students studying at the International Islamic University. -- Bernama

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