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Mahathir-Myanmar

MAHATHIR HOPES MYANMAR WILL IMPROVE ITS DOMESTIC SITUATION

JAKARTA, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir today expressed the hope that Yangon will take specific measures to improve the situation in Myanmar.

In his meeting with State Law, Order and Restoration Council (Slorc) Chairman Than Shwe here, Dr Mahathir told the Myanmar leader that Malaysia was concerned about reports on the situation in that country now.

The two leaders are here to attend the Asean informal summit tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in briefing Malaysian journalists on the meeting, said Than Shwe informed the prime minister "several times" of the measures being taken by his government to restore the situation in Myanmar.

Than Shwe explained the current situation to Dr Mahathir and told him that the Myanmar government had the situation under control, he said.

Abdullah said Than Shwe also expressed Yangon's intention to continue to make a success of the projects in the Mekong basin development areas.

On the entry of Myanmar into Asean, Dr Mahathir told the Myanmar leader that it was Asean's wish to see all the Southeast Asian nations join the regional grouping.

"However, the time of Myanmar's entry into Asean depends on the joint decision of the Asean leaders and they have to first discuss the matter among themselves," he said.

Asked whether Myanmar had expressed its intention to become an Asean member next year, Abdullah said: "He did not state it specifically but the intention was expressed." -- BERNAMA

TEAM JK