

19 JUN 1997

Abdullah-Erbakan

ERBAKAN'S RESIGNATION WILL NOT AFFECT D-8, SAYS PAK LAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's resignation will not affect the newly-formed group of eight muslim developing countries or D-8, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said D-8, the brainchild of Erbakan, would continue with its founding objectives as those involved were not Erbakan but eight countries including Turkey.

Malaysia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt and Nigeria are in the grouping, besides Turkey.

Abdullah said he was aware that other Turkish leaders also regarded D-8 as an important forum for Turkey as well as to member countries.

"The importance of D-8 in forging close cooperation is well-received by all parties including the Turkish government," he told reporters after launching a book titled "Prophet Muhammad's Leadership: Altruistic Management" and opening the Ujana Harmonis Resort training complex in Gombak, here.

Erbakan quit yesterday in a power-sharing deal with his deputy Tansu Ciller.

The idea to form D-8 was mooted by Erbakan to enhance economic ties with member countries to ensure a strong and effective grouping irrespective of their political ideology.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is among several D-8 member country leaders who attended the grouping's inaugural summit in Istanbul on Sunday.

In his speech, Abdullah said elected leaders must be credible, efficient and trustworthy in discharging their duties and responsibilities to the country and nation.

Such commendable qualities were necessary to enable Malaysians to emerge as a respected race in the eyes of the international community.

Abdullah also said dangerous "ills" like corruption and drug addiction were cancerous to the society and should be wiped out at all costs failing which they could destabilise the country. -- BERNAMA

MHI TS