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Parliament-Missions

FOREIGN MISSIONS UPDATED ON CURRENT EVENTS, DEWAN RAKYAT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's diplomatic missions abroad are updated on current developments and international issues involving Malaysia, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told the Dewan Rakyat today.

He said the missions were constantly kept informed on the latest developments in Malaysia.

Wisma Putra also informed them on the government's stand on crucial international issues, he said when replying to a supplementary question from Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Kota Melaka) during Question Time.

Citing as example the currency crisis faced by Malaysia, he said the issue had been notified to all embassies and high commissions abroad.

They have also been alerted on the draft resolution by 34 US Congressmen against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the US probe on Petronas for its business dealing in Iran, he said.

Abdullah said the issues were not only confined to Malaysia and the US but were international issues attracting the attention of the world.

" We know the stand of other countries but we have to be firm to defend our position. If the US is adamant to pursue their action, it's their decision.

" But we will be firm on our decision because the issue involves our country's sovereignty, integrity and dignity of Malaysians," he said.

Replying to Abdul Rahman Sulaiman (BN-Parit Buntar), Abdullah said Malaysia moved its embassy or high commission to another country due to reasons like geo-political changes and not because Malaysia's role in that country was deemed unimportant.

In this context, Malaysia recently shifted its mission from a country in Africa.

He also said the size of diplomatic missions abroad hinged on several factors with regards to Malaysia's relations with that country in terms of politics, investment and number of Malaysians residing there.

He, however, said since 1992, Malaysia had taken measures to trim expenses by using computers and not filling vacancies. -- BERNAMA

MNY TS