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Zahir-Iraq

IRAQ SEEKS MALAYSIA'S HELP TO END ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 (Bersama) -- Iraq has sought Malaysia's assistance to end the economic sanctions imposed on the country by the United Nations (UN) since 1991.

Iraqi Senate speaker Dr Sadoon Hamadi made the request to Dewan Rakyat speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail when he called on him at Parliament House here today.

Zahir said Dr Sadoon informed him of the sufferings being endured by the people of Iraq such as difficulties in getting medical supplies which had caused many people particularly children and the old to die.

Last year, the world body allowed Iraq to sell oil in exchange for food and medical supply under the oil for food exchange deal.

Dr Sadoon, who is heading a five-member delegation including two Members of Parliament, arrived here yesterday on a six-day visit to Malaysia.

Mohamed Zahir said he told Dr Sadoon that Malaysia had voiced its concern and dissatisfaction over the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

"I also told him that Arab countries should help each other than to quarrel among themselves which can be exploited by certain countries.

"I told them they have an important "weapon" in oil reserves which is enough for everyone. No point to indulge in conflicts among each other which can be disastrous to their own country besides giving an opportunity for others to intervene," he said.

As an example, Mohamed Zahir said, he cited Malaysia which had close ties with neighbouring countries in the Southeast Asia region.

Dr Sadoon also invited Mohamed Zahir to lead a delegation of parliamentarians to Iraq.

Dr Sadoon and his delegation later called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his office at the Prime Minister's Department.

They are also expected to meet Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz. -- BERNAMA

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