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OIC-Vision

MALAYSIA DRAWS UP IMPORTANT DOCUMENT ON FUTURE OF UMMAH

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

TEHERAN, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- A document on the vision and mission of the Ummah in the future will be tabled for discussion at the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) beginning here tomorrow.

"The Vision Statement" would list the principles which the 55-member OIC was expected to adhere to in efforts to enhance the progress and solidarity of Muslims as they enter the 21st century.

Malaysia led the efforts in drawing up the document which had the support of many member Arab, Asian and African nations of the OIC.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Malaysia collaborated with Iran, the chairman of the summit, in making the final amendments to the document which would be tabled before the Islamic leaders.

The three-day summit, to be attended also by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is the last for the 20th century. It is the eighth summit since the inception of the OIC in 1969.

Dr Mahathir is expected to arrive here at 5pm local time (9.30pm Malaysian Standard Time). This is the third time Dr Mahathir is attending the summit held once in three years.

The OIC Foreign Ministers who held a preparatory meeting for the summit had expressed their respective views on the present situation facing Muslims and the future challenges they would have to face, during the final session of the meeting yesterday.

Abdullah said Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas had informed other OIC Foreign Ministers that Malaysia was preparing a "Vision Statement" for the Islamic leaders on the future of the Ummah.

"Generally the Vision Statement expresses the hope that Muslims will become a progressive people in the future and live in peace and stability," Abdullah told Malaysian journalists.

He said any problem facing Muslim countries should be resolved through discussions and force including the military option should be avoided.

"In this respect, we stress that any form of intervention in the internal affairs of OIC member nations will be unacceptable under whatever circumstance," Abdullah said before leaving for Bonn to attend the conference on the implementation of the Dayton Accord on Bosnia-Herzegovina, beginning tomorrow.

Abdullah would return to Teheran to be with Dr Mahathir at the summit being hosted by Iran for the first time.

In a separate news conference, Iran's Foreign Minister Dr Kamal Kharazmi said the vision would also encompass the role that could be played by the OIC in the future.

Abdullah said the document would also stress the need for member nations to expand cooperation as a way of stepping up their progress.

It would also stress the preservation of the environment and cooperation in eliminating drug trafficking and all forms of violence.

The document would however be not legally binding on member nations, he added. -- BERNAMA

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