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Abdullah-Asean

ASEAN COOPERATION WILL BRING GREATER SUCCESS TO MEMBER NATIONS

KEPALA BATAS, Penang, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is confident that cooperation and collaboration among Asean countries in handling the current economic crisis will bring greater success to their peoples, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdudllah Haji Ahmad Badawi said today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent visit to the various Asean countries to get them to agree to the use of Asean currencies for trade among themselves reflected this collaborative spirit among them, he said.

"This is a good development arising from the economic slowdown we are all experiencing," he told reporters after chairing the Kepala Batas Umno Division committee meeting here. He is also the Member of Parliament for Kepala Batas.

The agreement to step up intra-Asean trade and use Asean currencies was also a follow-up to the Asean Informal Summit here last December, Abdullah said.

The economic slowdown and other related developments would also be discussed at the Asia-Europe meeting to be held in London soon, he said.

Abdullah also urged the people to continue to support the government particularly when the ringgit and stock market had recently taken an upturn.

He said if the people continued to save and be patient and not go profit-taking in the short run, it would have a positive effect on economic recovery. -- BERNAMA

AHM AAM