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Abdullah-OIC

MALAYSIA IN OIC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PANEL

KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 (Bernama) -- The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has set up an ad-hoc committee in which Malaysia is also a member to prepare a cooperation action programme in the field of development.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia proposed the action programme and was agreed to at the just concluded meeting of OIC Foreign Ministers in Doha, Qatar.

The programme was necessary to implement the OIC Vision Statement which was unanimously adopted at the 55-member OIC summit in Teheran in December last year, he said.

"The action programme is important for if not the vision will remain a mirage," he told an airport news conference on his return.

"The Vision Statement" among other things lists the principles for OIC member states in their efforts to step up progress and unity particularly when they were on the threshold of the 21st century, he said.

"Malaysia wants to see the OIC participate more actively in areas of cooperation as we are now too much tied to political matters," he said.

Apart from making efforts to improving the situation in OIC member nations facing conflicts it would also be better if attention was given to cooperation in various development fields, he said.

Abdullah also proposed that OIC countries turn to Smart Partnership programmes initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He also stressed the vital role of the private sector in enhancing economic and development cooperation particularly among the Group of Eight (D8) Islamic countries.

"The idea has been expanded to include Southern Africa and Eastern Europe... and if the D8 members are ready to participate in the Smart Partnership Dialogue..I will convey their wish to the Prime Minister," he said. -- BERNAMA

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