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Hamid-Image

ANTI-SMEAR CAMPAIGN TOPS WISMA PUTRA AGENDA, SAYS SYED HAMID

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 19 (Bernama) -- The Foreign Ministry said countering negative reports on Malaysia and national leaders will be its most important mission this year by stepping up efforts to portray good image of the country.

The minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said: "We have good climate for investment ... we must sell this. We always got adverse publicity ... people talking about us but these (adverse publicity) are not true."

Speaking at a press conference at his office here today Syed Hamid said it was more crucial than ever now to disseminate correct information not only to foreigners but also Malaysian students abroad.

"Now there are opposition leaders, lawyers and others going abroad and talking a lot of things about the country. This could tarnish the country's good name," he said.

He said the ministry would monitor such activities and check bad publicity from shedding bad light on Malaysia and her leaders.

Syed Hamid said currently Malaysian students abroad were being influenced by bias reporting by foreign media and inaccurate information floated on the Internet.

At the recent G15 leaders' summit meeting in Jamaica, Syed Hamid said he wrote to all his G15 counterparts enlightening them on financial measures taken by Malaysia and the Prime Minister's statements on foreign exchange controls, among others.

"By doing this, we'll be able to improve our image, project our side of the story. But we can't do it alone, we need the assistance of other ministries, students and businessmen," he said.

Syed Hamid also said that a student urging Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to resign during the Prime Minister's recent meeting with Malaysian students in London did not reflect the view of all fellow students.

"This could be due to lack of information of what is actually happening in the country. The prime minister took the opportunity to explain the real situation," Syed Hamid added.

Dr Mahathir met the students enroute to the G15 summit in Montego Bay in Jamaica.

-- BERNAMA

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