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Khalil-Media

M'SIA TO UP TIES WITH SOUTH-SOUTH COUNTRIES - KHALIL

SEREMBAN, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet has directed to step up radio and television links as well as print and electronic media ties with South-South countries to boost bilateral understanding among the countries.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said a paper approved by the Cabinet on the matter was now at action stage which include programme exchange.

Malaysia would initiate meetings and organise visits to South-South countries to study the kind of programmes to be included under the exchange arrangement, he said.

He said Information Ministry, Energy, Communications and Multimedia Ministry and Foreign Ministry would be involved in the programme.

He was speaking to reporters after addressing 500 information officers from Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Selangor, Pahang and the Federal Territory at a closed-door briefing here.

He was asked to comment on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during his recent visit to China on the need for Malaysia and China to cooperate with the countries in the region to create an Asian Media following lop-sided reports by the western media.

Dr Mahathir had said East Asian countries were concerned over the foreign media's inaccurate and damaging reports on the goings on in this region.

Khalil said he had preliminary discussions with the Malaysian National News Agency (BERNAMA) on ways to enhance Bernama's role in the exchange of news with other news agencies in Asia.

He said other Asian countries also have news agencies and they need to discuss the best ways to cooperate in channelling the news to one another.

He said many leaders of South-South countries have come to Malaysia and have met Dr Mahathir were keen to know Malaysia's success formula in the production of the national car Proton, the success of national oil corporation Petronas and the manufacturing sector.

-- BERNAMA

AZ TS