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Syed Hamid-Policy

MALAYSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY DEPENDS ON ITS INTEREST, SAYS SYED HAMID

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's foreign policy in the next millennium depends on its domestic policy and its approach must be based on its interest as a nation, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said that the country's foreign policy also depended on its concern in ensuring the strength of countries in the region and regional bodies.

"This is because through regional bodies, our voices and positions as a grouping are stronger for us to face the challenges when approaching the new millennium, relying on cohesiveness and solidarity, and strength of the countries in Asean," he said.

Syed Hamid said this when met by reporters after delivering a lecture on "Malaysia's International Direction In The Next Millennium", at the National Institute of Public Administration, in Bukit Kiara, here.

The foreign minister said that Asean exist not only as a political grouping but also an economic grouping, cooperating in the fields of trade and investment.

Syed Hamid, elaborating on his speech, said that Malaysia's relations with other continents and the stand of other countries and bodies on the issue of globalisation should be seen in a wider perspective, as the issue should not be used as a means to dominate.

"We want to make sure that even though we accept globalisation, it should not be used as a means to dominate small countries or developing countries," he said.

He said that input from developing countries should also be taken into account to ensure just and fair participation.

"The best way to ensure justice and fairness in this challenging world is to ensure the strength of regional groupings like Asean, G-15, G-77," he said.

In his speech, Syed Hamid said that his task of forecasting the future of Malaysia's policy was relatively easy because Malaysia's national direction had in fact been enunciated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Vision 2020.

Syed Hamid said that Malaysia also wants reforms in the United Nations set up in 1948 with membership of only some 50 countries compared with 185 countries at present.

He said that the position and challenges of the UN now and when it was set up were different and should be adapted in keeping with the times.

Syed Hamid said that Malaysia also wants reforms in the world financial system.

He added that the foreign policy, formulated at this time, was clearer to enable the country's mission to play an effective role.

-- BERNAMA

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