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Hamid-Election

MALAYSIA CONFIDENT INDONESIA'S ELECTION WILL BE SMOOTH

JAKARTA, March 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is confident that Indonesia's June 7 election will be smooth to enable whichever government that emerges to resolve the country's economic problems, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said here today.

He said as a neighbour, Malaysia was concerned over the problems faced by Indonesia which is Asean's biggest member both in size and population.

"From what I can see the process leading to the general election is honest and fair.....it is going on well," he told reporters at the end of his two-day visit to Jakarta.

There could be some minor problems but the situation was different from that reported by the foreign media, Syed Hamid said.

Indonesia is the first Asean country, he is visiting since his appointment as Malaysian Foreign Minister by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a cabinet reshuffle in January. Previously he was Malaysia's Defence Minister.

While here, Syed Hamid held wide ranging talks with Indonesia's President B.J. Habibie, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Defence Minister General Wiranto who is also Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces.

"The method and approach we have adopted in tackling the economic problems are indeed different but this is not an obstacle to closer relations between the two countries," Syed Hamid said.

He also reiterated that Malaysia would stick to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of its neighbours and would opt for collaboration in resolving any problem that arose.

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