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Bosnia banking on help from Islamic countries

MALACCA, Thurs. - Support from Islamic countries is vital for the rebuilding of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Malaysia, in particular, has played a significant role in the reconstruction of the country, Bosnian ambassador to Malaysia, Osman Music said.

He added that other Islamic countries had also provided assistance in establishing the basis for "a functioning country".

"We are still in the process of reviving the economy. Although a slow process, we will like to see progress.

"With their assistance, we hope we can achieve faster progress," he added.

He said this after visiting Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam yesterday.

The Bosnians, he added, were grateful to the Malaysian Government for its assistance.

"We hope to enhance ties with Malaysia which has been supportive of us."

Music said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina recently would give fresh impetus to reconstruction efforts.

The monetary assistance by Malaysia would be used to rebuild mosques destroyed during the war.

Music added that the Bosnians could learn a lot from Malaysia.

"Malaysia is fast recovering from the economic slowdown which hit it in 1997. We hope to be able to learn from Malaysia in rebuilding our country," he said.

Meanwhile, Mohd Ali said a total of RM589,000 had been collected by the State Government to assist the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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