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Gusmao coming for visit in February

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - East Timor leader Xanana Gusmao will visit the country early next month as part of efforts to strengthen ties with Malaysia.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Malaysia welcomed the leader of the territory which has obtained full independence.

He said the country would be able to ascertain the latest developments in East Timor which is under the purview of the United Nations. Malaysia has despatched 30 officers including police and military observers to the territory.

Syed Hamid said he would arrange for Gusmao to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"We can also clear the misconception about Malaysia created by certain parties among East Timor leaders," he said.

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