

22 FEB 2000

Hamid-Indonesia

KL TO SEND FACT-FINDING MISSION TO INDONESIA

PETALING JAYA, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will send a fact-finding mission to Jakarta soon to identify areas for cooperation and assistance to accelerate Indonesia's economic recovery, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

The advance party would precede Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Indonesia at the invitation of President Abdurrahman Wahid.

"Dr Mahathir has said that he will make the visit as soon as possible," Syed Hamid told reporters after opening an international symposium here today on Malaysian business in the new era.

Dr Mahathir's upcoming visit is a follow-up to the two leaders' brief meeting at the Unctad X conference in Bangkok earlier this month.

Yesterday, Indonesian Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab himself handed over the invitation to Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir had informed Alwi that he would like to bring along the private sector during the coming trip to Indonesia.

"It is more of trying to strike a smart partnership that will benefit both sides," said Syed Hamid.

According to Syed Hamid, the prime minister had instructed him to make arrangements for the visit, including sending the fact-finding mission whose report will be submitted to the cabinet.

He said Jakarta has raised several matters, including special overseas funding, to hasten the republic's economic recovery.

"We have to look within our capabilities and the interest that Malaysians have," Syed Hamid said stressing that Malaysia looked forward to creating partnership with Indonesia and not for taking advantage of the situation.

The symposium on "Malaysian Business in the New Era" was organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

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