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Syed Hamid-Myanmar

MALAYSIA WELCOMES MYANMAR GOVT'S MORE OPEN ATTITUDE

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia welcomes the Myanmar Government's more open attitude and softer stance and is confident that these developments will lead to even better political winds of change in the Asean member state.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said these political developments in Myanmar were very encouraging and Malaysia was confident that the disputing groups would arrive at a consensus on the governing process for their country.

He was commenting on the positive developments reported recently by the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar Tan Sri Razali Ismail on his mission to that country.

Syed Hamid was speaking at a news conference after visiting the headquarters of the Malaysian Association of Youth Clubs (MAYC) here.

Razali was reported to have said that he was allowed to meet twice with Opposition Leader Aung San Suu Kyi now under house arrest.

He also met the head of the military junta Lt Gen Khin Nyut.

Razali was given the mandate by the UN to discuss issues related to the UN General Assembly Resolution of December 1999 urging the Myanmar Government to stop any violation of human rights and take steps to return the country to democracy,

Syed Hamid said as a country with close ties with Myanmar, Malaysia fully supported Razali's efforts to restore democracy in that country.

However in line with the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, Malaysia had adopted the stand that democratisation in Myanmar should be at its own pace and convenience without any external force or pressure, he said.

"The Malaysian Government has always stressed on the concept of a constructive relationship without offending any country and on the question of Myanmar we can only be influential to the extent of showing how the democratic process has brought benefit to economic development and to the people's wellbeing in this country," he said.

He said the visit of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Myanmar last month had produced encouraging results and Malaysia would help in the economic development of that country.

He said Malaysia was confident that the democratisation process in Myanmar would gain momentum when its economy further improved.

On his visit to the MAYC headquarters, Syed Hamid said it was to study the renovations that could be done to the office and the Youth Hostel managed by the MAYC.

This is his first visit to the headquarters since Syed Hamid succeeded Tan Sri Sanusi Junid as MAYC President at the end of last year.

--BERNAMA

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