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Syed Hamid-Megawati

MEGAWATI HERE NOT IN SEARCH OF PERSONAL SUPPORT, SAYS SYED HAMID

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- Indonesian vice president Megawati Soekarnoputri is visiting Malaysia to strengthen bilateral ties and not in search of support for her leadership of her country as alleged by certain quarters.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said such allegations were unfounded as Malaysia does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

He said this when asked to comment on claims by certain quarters that Megawati's visit to Malaysia was aimed at strengthening her leadership position in Indonesia.

"We do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries," Syed Hamid told reporters at the Foreign Ministry's Hari Raya open house here today.

Megawati is scheduled to arrive here this evening for a three-day visit at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. This is Megawati's first official visit to Malaysia since she was elected vice president.

Megawati is scheduled to meet Abdullah and to call on Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah tomorrow.

Asked about the agenda for the meeting between Abdullah and Megawati, Syed Hamid said they are expected to discuss general issues concerning both countries.

On another matter, Syed Hamid said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Myanmar has no link to the mission by Tan Sri Razali Ismail, the United Nations' Special Envoy, to Myanmar.

"It is just a coincidence that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is visiting the country at a time when Tan Sri Razali is carrying out his duties," he said.

Razali's mission to Myanmar is reportedly aimed at establishing a dialogue between the Myanmar military junta and the National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

Dr Mahathir left for Myanmar on Wednesday for a week-long visit.

-- BERNAMA

NM MAM THG