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Mahathir-Islam

MUSLIM NATIONS SHOULD UNITE AND BE SEEN AS ONE, SAYS MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- At a meeting with Arab heads of mission who called on him here today the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged Muslim nations to unite so as to be seen as one.

In this way they could uphold their integrity besides preserving Islam as a religion that commands respect from others, Dr Mahathir told the diplomats.

Details of the 90-minute meeting from 4 pm were given by the acting Foreign Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid at a press briefing later at the Prime Minister's Department here.

"Muslim countries should unite and act in unison and as one under the auspices of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference)," Azmi quoted Dr Mahathir as saying.

Azmi said the prime minister urged Islamic countries to maintain a moderate but clear stand.

The heads of mission were ambassadors of Palestine, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Iraq, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Kuwait, Oman and Libya.

Azmi, who is the Rural Development Minister, said the Arab ambassadors thanked Dr Mahathir for his views on current global issues notably terrorism.

"They also discussed problems faced by Islamic countries and sought Dr Mahathir's views on the predicaments for them to convey and share back home," Azmi said.

The diplomats and the prime minister discussed general cooperation among OIC countries, the OIC stand and its outlook in the aftermath of the Sept 11 attacks on the United States, Azmi added.

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