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Syed Hamid-Extremist

NIP EXTREMIST THREAT IN THE BUD, SAYS SYED HAMID

PETALING JAYA, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is satisfied with the cooperation it has forged with Indonesia and the Philippines to check the activities of a network of extremist groups bent on forming Islamic governments in these countries.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said it was important for the security forces of the three countries to maintain channels for thwarting the objectives of any militant groups.

"To prevent these groups from operating as a regional network, each country should resolve the problem at its own level," he told reporters after launching Wisma Putra's Family Day celebrations here today.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia would continue to take proactive measures to contain the activities of militant groups which, among other things, were out to topple the government by force.

He said this when commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that extremist groups in these three countries had formed a network to fulfil their objective of setting up Islamic nations.

Early last month, police arrested 10 people under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for alleged involvement in the activities of the Kumpulan Militant Malaysia (KMM) that has been deemed a security threat.

Syed Hamid said the three countries viewed security matters seriously as evident from the talks between Dr Mahathir and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri during their visits to Malaysia recently.

He said the Malaysian society could not accept militant groups and there was no place for extremists in the country.

The use of violence and force was not the answer to the problems facing Muslims in this region and other places, he said.

As could be seen in several parts of the world, the use of force would cause instability and undermine efforts to develop Muslims, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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