

06 MAY 2002

Syed Hamid-Memo

MAPHILINDO TO SIGN PACT TOMORROW TO CHECK TERRORISM

RAWANG, Selangor, May 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia will sign a memorandum tomorrow to strengthen cooperation in checking terrorist activities especially cross border terrorism, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

The three countries had already agreed to the draft memorandum on this, he told reporters after visiting a pharmaceutical product sterilisation company, Sterilgama Sdn Bhd, here.

Syed Hamid would sign for Malaysia, the Philippines by its minister and the Indonesia Foreign Minister would sign for his country.

He said the memorandum was being signed in conjunction with the presence of Philippine President Gloria Arroyo Macapagal in Malaysia tomorrow.

The Philippine President will arrive in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow to present a working paper at the 35th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council.

Syed Hamid said by signing the memorandum, the three countries were of the view that there was a pressing need for integrated action to counter terrorist activities.

"Through the memorandum the security forces of all three countries will step up cooperation to counter terrorist activities," he said.

On the meeting between President Arroyo and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow, Syed Hamid said there was no specific agenda for discussion but the issue of countering terrorist activities was likely to draw the interest of both leaders.

Syed Hamid said the memorandum was the prime mover in the forging of close cooperation among Asean member nations in countering terrorism and he expressed the hope other member nations would join in later.

On the statement by several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) that they would not cooperate for 100 days with the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam), Syed Hamid said Suhakam need not heed their wishes.

"If the government were to abide by any and every wish of the NGOs, it will certainly bring the country's administration to a halt," the Foreign Minister said.

He said the NGOs concerned did not represent the majority of the people.

"There are some NGOs with only one or two members but they speak as though they represent the majority of the people," he said.

Syed Hamid said the important thing was for Suhakam to play its role as laid down in the Suhakam Act.

On the accident in North Korea in which nine Malaysians were killed, Syed Hamid in expressing his condolences to their families, said the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing would arrange for the remains to be sent home.

The embassy would also arrange for the sending home of Malaysians who were injured in the accident which occurred when their tour bus plunged into disused mining pool about 40KM north of Pyongyang.

-- BERNAMA

AKT AHH AAM