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Chogm-terrorism

MALAYSIA HAS ORDERED FREEZE ON ASSETS OF ORGANISATIONS SPONSORING
TERRORISTS

By: Abdul Aziz Harun

COOLUM (Australia), March 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has ordered local banks to freeze the assets of organisations found to be sponsoring or connected with terrorism, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

He said the action was in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1317 which outlined various measures to fight terrorism.

The Malaysian banks had been issued with a U.S.-prepared list of organisations and their members two months ago, directing them to freeze the assets if they came across such organisations and individuals, he told Malaysia journalists after accompanying Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to the second executive session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) here today.

Syed Hamid, however, said he could not say how many accounts had been frozen.

He also said the Commonwealth heads of government had agreed in principle to accept the anti-terrorism action plan which was formulated by the Commonwealth foreign ministers at their meeting in London last January.

He said the plan among others emphasised on the need to standardize criminal laws to enable actions to be taken against terrorists in any Commonwealth countries and the need to have more inter-civilisation dialogue among member countries.

Also, there must be cooperation in exchange of information in the fight against terrorism from various aspects including cutting off the terrorists' source of funding in any Commonwealth country, he said.

Malaysia is a member of the Commonwealth committee on terrorism, together with Australia, Bahamas, Canada, India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tonga and Britain.

On the discussion on terrorism at the executive session, Syed Hamid said several Commonwealth leaders had voiced views similar to that of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

This included the call not to associate terrorism with Islam, the need for a clear definition of terrorism and the proposal to include U.N. in the fight against terrorism.

He said it showed that many countries were facing an almost similar problem in matters involving terrorism and were finding ways to fight it.

"CHOGM in principle agrees that the fight against terrorism should not be connected to a community, religion or culture," he said.

He said it should not be seen as fighting Islam as this could be very dangerous to the world and could lead to bigger conflict.

-- BERNAMA

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