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Syed Hamid-OIC

OIC FOREIGN MINISTERS SUPPORT MALAYSIA'S PROPOSAL

SEPANG, June 30 (Bernama) -- Foreign ministers from the 56-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) at its annual meeting in Khartoum, Sudan which ended yesterday supported Malaysia's proposal, aimed at shedding OIC's image as an inactive organisation in the eyes of the world community.

Malaysia's proposal to review OIC's role to make it action-oriented, was made at the extraordinary meeting of OIC foreign ministers on terrorism in Kuala Lumpur last April.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, speaking to reporters on his return from the meeting at the KL International Airport (KLIA) here today, said a consultant was being appointed to study certain areas requiring emphasis by OIC.

"Many OIC members feel that they could put the organisation to effective use but what is needed is a new approach to reflect the aspirations of the members," he said.

He said OIC could serve as a good forum or mechanism for member countries to meet and act, not just talk but action for the benefit of all.

He said the meeting also agreed to adopt the draft resolution to set up a ministerial level committee on terrorism, made up of 13 member countries, under the Action Plan which was included in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.

Syed Hamid also said leaders from Islamic countries attending the meeting were shocked and disappointed to hear that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad would resign in October next year.

They viewed Dr Mahathir as an Islamic leader who is not afraid to say what he thinks, he said.

"I explained to them the process of transition of power and even without Dr Mahathir, Malaysia will continue to play its required role," he said.

He said the meeting also discussed the financial crisis faced by the OIC secretariat in Jeddah due to unpaid contributions totalling US\$29 million (RM110.2 million).

Syed Hamid said this was because many OIC members were poor countries with only 20 members paying their contributions on time.

--BERNAMA

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