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Endowment-OIC

OIC MEMBERS NEED MUTUAL TIES AND STRONG LEADERSHIP

By: Norizatini Nor Ali and Sharifah Nor Shahrizad Sharer

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) must enhance relationship between member countries and find a strong leader among them in order to become a vital world organisation.

Bosnian Grand Mufti Mustafa Ceric said despite all the mocking that people made on OIC, Islamic nations still needed the organisation to address critical issues pertaining to the Muslim world eventhough it could not resolve some of them.

"In terms of having a leader to hear the messages of the Muslims, we don't have it yet," he said.

Mustafa was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's disappointment that many had poked fun on the OIC for its ineffectiveness.

He also said there should not be any finger-pointing in addressing the ineffectiveness of the OIC.

"There are 57 Islamic states in the OIC, so if you blame everyone then no one wants to be responsible," he added.

He also said some Islamic states should come out of isolation.

"We cannot live on an isolated island. We need to meet each other often otherwise we cannot survive. There should not be any isolation or assimilation but cooperation," he said.

Meanwhile, Sierra Leone's Deputy Minister of Islamic Affairs Usman Nuruddin Sjah said OIC must make its presence felt in every Muslim state, especially the states which faced difficulties.

He cited Sierra Leone as an example which was left in the hands of the non-Muslims after the war as its Islamic centre was closed then.

"We need help from other Islamic countries to guide us after the war," he added.

Usman also said the organisation needed the full commitment of every member.

"The commitment is not only in providing the financial needs of the less developed Islamic countries but also in giving moral support," he said.

He also said that OIC as the highest Islamic organisation should also address the political issues faced by the Muslims which gave a global impact to the Islamic nations.

Director of Cabinet for Senegal's Minister of Social Development and National Solidarity, Moustapha LY said economic linkages among members were not so much of a problem at the moment, but the critical issue that needed to be addressed was solidarity between the OIC members.

"OIC needs to strengthen the solidarity among member countries which actually is being done right now," he said.

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