

26 MAY 2002

ABIM LAUDS DR MAHATHIR'S DECISION TO MEET POPE JOHN PAUL

KUALA LUMPUR, May 26 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement (ABIM) today welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to meet up with Pope John Paul II.

ABIM President Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman said the meeting would be meaningful towards addressing global issues from the perspective of inter-faith dialogue.

"The meeting would allow the exchange of ideas over global issues," he told Bernama in response to reports on the Prime Minister's acceptance of the invitation from the Pope.

"I believe this reflects an acknowledgement of Malaysia's voice as representative, though not all, of the Islamic nations ... nevertheless a voice recognised as significant by Pope John Paul," he said.

"We are confident the meeting will involve the exchange of opinions on issues of terrorism as well as current crises especially in West Asia that involves Jews, Christians and Muslims," he said.

Azam said discussions and dialogues to resolve issues complied with Islamic teachings.

Dr Mahathir had today informed the media of his acceptance of the invitation from the Pope. His visit to Vatican City is scheduled to be held next month, in conjunction with visits to Switzerland and Luxembourg.

-- BERNAMA

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