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Terrorism-Alatas

PAY HEED TO DR M'S DEFINITION OF TERRORISM, SAYS ALATAS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 3 (Bernama) -- Former Indonesian foreign minister Ali Alatas said today that the world should pay attention to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's definition of terrorism.

"Dr Mahathir is brave enough to voice out a definition. The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and Asean grouping could not come to a consensus," he told reporters on the sidelines of the 16th Asia-Pacific Roundtable meeting here.

Alatas, who was foreign minister for 11 years until 1999, said Dr Mahathir had clearly defined terrorism and who was considered a terrorist.

Dr Mahathir's definition of terrorism had been welcomed by the United States, he added.

He said if the world wanted to get out of the dilemma it faced with regard to terrorism, there should be a clear definition of the menace.

He said the world could not come to a consensus on the definition because of differing opinions between developed and developing countries.

Dr Mahathir has among others stated that exploding bombs in public places and killing innocent civilians or holding people to ransom as shields must be condemned as acts of terrorism and anyone committing such acts for whatever cause must be regarded as a terrorist.

Alatas was the co-chairperson of the plenary session on "What is Terrorism?, Who is a Terrorist? and Why Terrorism? at the meeting.

-- BERNAMA

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