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Syed Hamid-Opposition

SYED HAMID TELLS OPPOSITION TO UPHOLD NATIONAL INTEREST

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Members of the opposition should put the interest of the country rather than their political interest first, including when interviewed by the foreign media, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said that sometimes efforts by the government to project the true image of Malaysia were undermined by opposition members who would run down the country during such interviews.

"I hope there will be cooperation when it comes to the interest of the country. We should not put political interest in front of our national interest," he told reporters after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Malaysia and Australia on combating international terrorism at Wisma Putra, here.

Syed Hamid inked the document on behalf of the Malaysian government while Australia was represented by his counterpart, Alexander Downer.

Syed Hamid's remarks came when answering a question on why the foreign media seem inclined to find fault with everything Malaysia does, including measures taken to combat terrorism within its borders.

"I think that once they have got a fixed mind, a fixed agenda, no matter what we say, it's not going to change them. What is most important is that it should not undermine our own confidence," he said.

Syed Hamid said Malaysians must continue to ensure that their country was stable and the people united to enable it to defend itself.

He said the country must continue to adopt the right policies, which was the case all this while, to be able to attract more investors and visitors.

People who knew this country, he said, were very interested to come here because of the political stability, the kindness of its people and, for investors, the knowledge that their investments were safe.

"But sometimes our work is made difficult because some opposition members would talk to the foreign media and say that this is not happening in this country," he added.

He also commented on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement in Langkawi yesterday that a rich country had succeeded in stopping a corporation from investing in Malaysia by offering it US\$200 million and other incentives.

Syed Hamid said such action should be included in the international trade regulations as going against the freedom to invest in any country.

He said unfair competition would hamper a country from developing.

-- BERNAMA

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