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SPEAKERS CONFERENCE WELCOMES PM'S IMPENDING VISIT TO VATICAN

KOTA KINABALU, May 29 (Bernama) -- The 31st Conference of Malaysian Parliament and State Legislative Assembly Speakers has unanimously welcomed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's acceptance of an invitation to meet Pope John Paul II in Vatican City.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Dr Mohamed Zahir Ismail said that it shows that the world recognises the role and sincerity of the prime minister particularly towards world peace.

"We are very happy with regards to the invitation by Pope John Paul II to the prime minister...it is a good gesture. It clearly shows that the world recognises the integrity and leadership of the prime minister," he said.

Dr Mohamed Zahir was speaking to reporters here after the official closing ceremony of the two-day conference by Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, today.

On Sunday, Dr Mahathir said that he had agreed to accept an invitation from Pope John Paul. The meeting is expected to take place in conjunction with the prime minister's trip to Switzerland and Luxembourg from June 9 to 12.

-- BERNAMA  
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