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DINAR-CONVENTION

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOLD GOLD DINAR CONVENTION ON JULY 1

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Kuala Lumpur branch, will hold a one-day convention on the use of the gold dinar as an alternative medium of exchange for international trade at the Putra World Trade Centre here on July 1, said its chairman, Tan Sri Elyas Omar.

He said the chamber had invited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to officiate at the opening ceremony and deliver a keynote address.

Elyas said the chamber hoped to attract about 500 participants from within and outside the country to the convention, which would be conducted in English.

The convention is aimed at enhancing knowledge on the use of the gold dinar, he told Bernama when visiting the national news agency at Wisma Bernama here with committee members of the chamber.

Elyas said the chamber also hoped to enhance bilateral ties with trade chambers in other countries.

This would enable its members to benefit from networking arrangements with their counterparts from other countries, he said.

At present, the Kuala Lumpur branch of the chamber has about 200 members. The national chamber has a total membership of about 4,000.

Elyas said the chamber hoped to attract more Muslim entrepreneurs, especially those in the small and medium scale industries, to join the body.

"The chamber can act as one-stop centre for their needs in areas like capacity building as well as in dealing with government agencies like the Small & Medium Industries Development Corporation (SMIDEC) for funding assistance, for example," he said.

Elyas also said the Kuala Lumpur branch was exploring the possibility of importing Islamic craftsmen to enhance exterior and interior facade of mosques in Malaysia.

He explained that this was because mosques in West Asia were adorned with breathtaking Islamic calligraphy and sculpture and this was something that many mosques in Malaysia lacked.

"We could use some of their expertise in this area to beautify our mosques," he said. -- BERNAMA

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