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OIC-Spouse/(With Pix)

M'SIAN KEBAYA WITH MODERN TOUCH A HIT AMONG FOREIGN SPOUSES

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Wives of OIC Foreign Ministers had a chance to see the latest fashion for Muslim women at a luncheon organised for them as part of the spouse programme.

The luncheon, hosted by Datin Seri Sharifah Aziah Syed Zainal Abidin, the wife of Malaysia's Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, was attended by Atiokpe Justine Biaou, wife of Benin Foreign Minister and the wives of foreign ambassadors based in Malaysia.

The fashion presentation showcased dazzling traditional costumes and jewellery collection by local designers.

There were "Kebayas" which have been given a modern touch. Instead of wearing them with the normal "sarong", they were paired with loose pants complete with pastel-shade headscarves.

Some guests were even seen signalling the models to stand close to their tables to enable them to view closely the glittering jewellery as well as the fine and intricate embroideries on the costumes.

"Muslim women need not look dull in their usual "jubah" (robe) attire. What have been showcased today proved that Muslim women can still look nice and elegant even if they need to cover their whole body.

"We hope to bring changes in the attitude of Muslim women who have the notion that wearing the jubahs and scarves will make them look ugly and conservative.

"Hopefully, it will trigger interest among those wishing to wear the scarves to do so soon," she told reporters after the event held at a leading hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

She said it was hoped that programmes for spouses would continue to be included in future OIC Summits as it would enable women or spouses of delegates from OIC member countries to meet others and share their views and expertise.

"It has not been in the culture of OIC delegates to bring along their wives for meetings but things have changed now. Hopefully, more women will participate in future," she said.

By organising such contemporary designs of Muslimah (Muslim women) couture, it is hoped that the need to elevate the image of Muslim women could be achieved, she said.

She said other spouses of Foreign Ministers of the OIC member states have yet to arrive as they would be accompanying their First Ladies before the meeting of the OIC Heads of State and Government on Thursday and Friday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

RT AZZ TS