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Abdullah-Reclamation

GROUP OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS TO BE FORMED AFTER OIC SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that Malaysia will attend to the setting up of the group of independent experts to monitor Singapore's reclamation works after the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (10th OIC Summit) in Putrajaya.

He said that the establishment of the group, prescribed to Malaysia and Singapore by the Hamburg-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Itlos) to study the effects of the reclamation works and to propose measures to deal with any adverse effects, was entirely the responsibility of Wisma Putra.

"Now Wisma Putra is busy with the OIC Summit...later, afterwards, when we have settled down, we will decide whom to be in the team," he told reporters after launching a book on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad entitled "Mahathir: Twenty Two Years, Twenty Two Voices" here.

Asked when exactly the group would be formed, Abdullah said he did not want to predict the date, but it would not take a long time.

The 10th OIC Summit, a gathering of 57 Islamic countries, begins tomorrow and ends on Oct 18.

Malaysia filed for international adjudication for provisional measures on Sept 5 pending hearing of the arbitration tribunal over the reclamation activities by the republic. Itlos conducted a three-day hearing from Sept 25 and delivered its judgment on Wednesday.

The pictorial book highlights two decades of hard work of Malaysia's renowned leader.

Produced by two publishing firms, Melewar Apex and JF Publishing, the book will hit the news-stands on the eve of Dr Mahathir's departure from office.

It also features memoirs and tributes from 22 renowned leaders in politics, business and the academia, including French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The 188-page book, to be sold at RM188 each, can be obtained by order directly from the publishers from today.

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