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OIC-Restructure  
MALAYSIA AIMS TO REVITALISE OIC

By: P.Vijian

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5 (Bernama) - After firing a salvo at the United Nations to reform itself, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to shift his attention to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Last month, at the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Dr Mahathir criticised what he considered the organisation's appalling performance.

But when the 10th OIC Summit convenes at the Putrajaya Convention Centre from Oct 11 to 18, Malaysia is expected to call for major reforms to make the 57-member grouping more effective to champion the Muslim agenda.

Foreign Affairs Ministry Secretary-General Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak said Malaysia would make serious efforts to restructure the OIC when it takes over its chairmanship.

"As the new chairman it is our responsibility to cooperate with Jeddah (OIC headquarters) to ensure resolutions approved are implemented," he told Bernama in an interview at his office.

The proposal to restructure was first made in 2001 when a Malaysian-based consultant company Accenture (M) Sdn Bhd was commissioned to conduct a study on how to improve the organisation.

Restructuring would be a two-pronged approach - focusing on the secretariat itself and the overall functioning of the OIC.

"First the secretariat in Jeddah will be reorganised to see the weaknesses which prevent the organisation from functioning effectively. Next is to improve the nature of work of the OIC.

"It is also time to review the OIC's Charter to introduce new procedures that has not been done since its inception," said Ahmad Fuzi.

He said some 160 resolutions are tabled at every summit and in the following summit the same proposals are repeated and updated.

"Questions are being asked whether this is the best way to go about with our work. There is a proposal to adopt the resolutions at the foreign ministerial level instead of bringing them to the summit and adopting them again.

"Once they are adopted, these resolutions should be implemented. Then at the summit leaders can focus on key issues," he added.

The consultant's study is expected to be completed before the summit and it will be presented to the secretary-general.

In July, the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank agreed to provide technical aid that also included a US\$1.2 million allocation to conduct the study.

Malaysia had been instrumental in setting up the OIC in 1969 in Rabat, Morocco and the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al Haj was the first secretary-general of the grouping.

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