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Mahathir-Closing

MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE REVITALISING OIC UNDER ITS LEADERSHIP

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Malaysia, the new chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), will strive to make the OIC a proactive organisation for the betterment of its 57 members.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that under the country's new leader, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysia would utilise the next three years of the OIC chairmanship to strengthen the Muslim ummah, particularly in the member countries.

Dr Mahathir will step down on Oct 31.

"We commit ourselves and will together see through a new agenda for a more united Muslim ummah and a more structured progress of raising the economic wellbeing of member states," the prime minister said in his closing remarks at the end of the 10th OIC Summit here tonight.

Expressing sincere thanks and gratitude for the support and cooperation from all parties during the OIC summit which began with the Senior Officials Meeting last Saturday, Dr Mahathir said the summit was successfully organised.

During the two-day leaders meeting, many suggestions and views were given to further strengthen the OIC.

"Some may have been incorporated into the various documents and some need further deliberation, such as the question of Palestine and the establishment of relevant committees for concrete resolution purposes.

"For the past few days we had extremely useful exchange of views covering many issues of importance to the OIC, particularly those that were related to the theme of the summit, Dr Mahathir said.

The summit's theme is "Knowledge and Morality for the Progress of the Ummah".

Saying that the OIC faced many challenges and opportunities that could be tapped, Dr Mahathir said that they required appropriate and urgent responses, clear and pragmatic strategies and well coordinated actions.

He said the overall approach must be a sound one, consistent with the principles of justice and democracy.

"We must strengthen our unity, dignity and solidarity and expand our cooperation in the political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and technical aspects," he said.

Dr Mahathir also expressed gratitude that the summit had adopted the Putrajaya Declaration to provide a blueprint for collective action.

It would offer guiding principles and implementable action plans to chart the performance of the 34-year-old grouping in the coming years.

"It is vital that the OIC general secretariat establish a mechanism for fully implementing the recommendations put forward by the designated consultants and to submit the progress report to the 31st ICFM (Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers) in Istanbul, Turkey, next year," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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