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Syed Hamid-OIC

PAS INFLUENCE NOT ACCEPTED IN OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES- SYED HAMID

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has ably put across its views on Islam in the international arena reflecting its determination to protect the interests of the religion, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

Islamic countries held Malaysia in high esteem for its efforts in enhancing the image of Islam in the eyes of the world, he told Bernama in an interview on the occasion of the 10th OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) summit in Putrajaya in October this year.

"Whatever Malaysia does...we have excelled...we have been able to create moderation, a positive perception of Islam," he said.

He was asked if it was something of a disappointment that PAS did not recognise Malaysia as a model Islamic state when several other Islamic countries considered Malaysia as being so.

"You must realise that whatever PAS does, it has not gained influence in other Islamic countries, for they have seen the proof...it is different in this country," he said

"We have been able to put across the Islamic view point in the international arena. PAS is not wanted out there and so it is playing on trivial issues," Syed Hamid said.

He said the trust placed in Malaysia in organising the OIC summit and in heading the organisation for the next three years showed foreign confidence in the government.

In his National Day message over radio and television last night, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hit out at those who nurtured and spread ingratitude towards those who provided help and brought progress to the country.

In the remarks clearly directed at PAS, Dr Mahathir said the group which felt that it too could bring progress to the country if elected to power, was actually betraying Islam and Muslims.

Syed Hamid said PAS was looking for mistakes in others as the party only had political objectives.

"We have to display the real PAS...a backward party which is not sincere in the struggle to uphold Islam," he said.

Log on to www.bernama.com/oicsummit for news on the OIC summit in Putrajaya.

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