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Syed Hamid-Brunei

QUICK SOLUTION TO BRUNEI-MALAYSIA TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia hopes that a solution over its territorial dispute with Brunei can be found soon to avoid misunderstanding for the benefit of both countries.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said that Malaysia was just protecting areas which it considered to be within its maritime or exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

"For so long the overlapping claims have not been resolved, there will be misunderstanding and we hope we'll find a solution that's satisfactory to both countries," he told reporters after meeting 44 representatives from the overseas Umno Clubs attending the 54th Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

Syed Hamid was referring to the overlapping claims between Malaysia and Brunei over Limbang.

"Both countries share the same certain maritime boundaries and EEZ areas because of geographical location, and unless this is made clear, it can create some problem," he said.

"What's important is whatever activities being conducted in the area must be done with the understanding of both countries.

"So I think if we're trying to sort it out.... Once it's sorted out, then oil companies of both countries can undertake activities because (recently) Malaysian exploration was chased out (from the disputed area)," he said.

Syed Hamid said that the problem had been discussed at the highest official level of both countries.

"I've discussed, the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) has also discussed. We want to find a solution, Brunei and Malaysia...our relations are very good," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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