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Malaysia aims to push OIC to greater heights

Farrah Naz Karim

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Organisation of the Islamic Conference under Malaysia's chairmanship will spur leaders of member states to push for the implementation of resolutions and ensure effectiveness of the 57-member grouping.

Honorary Consul General of Malaysia Datuk Omar Jundi said the country's assertiveness and vocalness would see the organisation turned into a body which voice is loud enough to propel Muslim countries to greater heights.

Having played a major part in the establishment of the OIC in Rabat, Morocco in 1969, he said Malaysia had since then continuously worked towards uplifting the ummah.

"Malaysia will ensure that the grouping do more of what they are doing.

"We should not just condemn and denounce like before. It is high time we acted and this is only effective if members are united and co-operative.

"Priority must also be placed in finding solutions to our problems ...these solutions should be executed as soon as possible, not postponed," the country's longest serving consul, who was instrumental in designing the first OIC logo, said.

Having served all four Prime Ministers, Omar is the first Honorary Consul of Malaysia appointed in Beirut in 1965.

Urging Islamic countries to take Malaysia as an example vis-a-vis its industrial, cultural and economic progress, he said they should also eliminate their orthodox thinking of Islam and embrace progress for the betterment of the ummah.

This, he said, would ensure Muslim countries were able to withstand global challenges.

"It is unfortunate that some Muslim leaders stick to traditions and refuse to change with the globalised world."

He also urged OIC members to respond positively to the need to enhance trade co-operation.

He said while Malaysia was among the few OIC countries that stressed the importance of economic co-operation among members and had long set the pace going, Muslim states must also open the doors to their Muslim brothers.

On the country's chairmanship, he said if Malaysia were to lead the OIC years ago, many resolutions adopted then would have long been implemented.

"I dont want to offend anyone, but Malaysia, unlike some, has always been serious in uplifting the ummah ...but now with the magnitude of problems faced by Muslim countries, the strength in their unity is vital."

He said it was pointless for the OIC to merely voice its ex-aspiration over the plight of the ummah.

Citing the proposal to impose sanctions against Israel, he said it would remain an impossible task as long as they did not stand as one.

"If we do not close ranks, we will remain unheard. We have to make the world community know that we mean what we said.

"As the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) has said, we are one sixth of the world population and we should do something to make the rest of the world take note of our aims," he said, adding it was more crucial to do so now since Palestine had been suffering for more than half a century.

"Palestine is a classic case of our weakness. What have we done about it? Only condemning and passing resolutions in the United Nations, which

have never been implemented anyway."

Expressing hope that Dr Mahathir would become the adviser of the OIC when he relinquishes his posts this month, he said it would greatly complement the organisation as his ideas and visions in uniting the Muslim community were unique and effective.