

Malaysia Wants To Share Experience With UN Members On Reducing Poverty - Anifah Bernama
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is ready to share its experience in reducing poverty with other developing countries, as part of efforts to ensure the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is well adopted.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman said the Malaysian government had managed to ensure a better quality of life for the people through several initiatives implemented through decades, and it could be helpful to other countries if the experience was shared.

"Through an inclusive, integrated and holistic approach to national development, Malaysia has reduced the incidence of poverty of total households from 49.3 per cent in 1970, to 0.6 per cent currently.

"And with this, Malaysia is ready to share its experience with other developing countries," he said, adding that the effort reflected Malaysia's continued perseverance to attain a better, peaceful and secure world where basic rights were possible.

Anifah said this when addressing diplomats at the UN Day 2015 reception, here, today.

During the tabling of the 2016 Budget in Parliament last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that Malaysia, through the National Transformation Policy, which commenced in 2010, had reduced the incidence of poverty from 3.8 per cent in 2009, to just 0.6 per cent in 2014.

According to the UN Agenda, which was signed by 193 member states last month, among the resolutions listed were to end poverty and hunger everywhere, to combat inequalities within and among countries, to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and to ensure lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.

Meanwhile, Anifah said, Malaysia's continuous development since independence in 1957, was enabled by a peaceful and stable environment, which was why the nation believed that peace and security were essential for sustainable development.

"As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Malaysia is committed to working closely with other council members in trying to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, including in the African and Middle Eastern regions," he said.

Anifah said Malaysia would continue to advocate inclusive dialogues towards achieving peace premised on the principle of moderation and mediation.

Malaysia, he added, had done several parts as a manifestation of the nation's commitment to international peace and security, including the willingness to join the global coalition to

counter the IS.

On the need to counter the narrative of the so-called Islamic State, the minister said Malaysia had agreed to host the Regional Digital Counter-Messaging Communications Centre in Kuala Lumpur to deal with the IS' propaganda in cyberspace.

On an initiative on climate change, Anifah said, Malaysia and Spain had co-chaired a meeting which discussed the multiplier effect of climate change on international peace and security.

"During the meeting, member states had shared the view that climate change could trigger humanitarian crises, political and economic instability, border disputes, ethnic tensions and large-scale migration of people around the world," Anifah said.

He said the initiative was to fulfil Malaysia's pledge to the Small-Island Developing States (SIDS) to bring forward the issue of climate change at the Security Council.

On the 70th anniversary of the UN, Anifah said Malaysia saluted the individuals from all walks of life who had dedicated their lives to create a better world.

"Malaysia remains committed to upholding the principles of the UN Charter towards building lives of prosperity, security and dignity for all. We will continue to play our role in strengthening the UN and we support the secretary-general for a 'Strong UN, Better World'," he said.

In conjunction with the celebration, Anifah launched a book published by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations titled, "Malaysia and the United Nations", which contains short stories by former Malaysian diplomats who had served at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

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