

Council: Fitna an insult

'Boycott all Dutch products'

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Fatwa Council has ruled that the film *Fitna* produced by Dutch legislator Geert Wilders is an insult to Islam and Muslims the world over, and called on Muslims to protest by boycotting Dutch products.

Council chairman Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Shukor Husin said in a state-

ment yesterday that the disrespect for religious sensitivities and Muslims was an element of terrorism nurtured to further tarnish inter-religious links and between the Muslim world and the West.

"The council urges Muslims to exercise maturity and use the best approach in facing the issue and

refrain from being influenced by the provocation attempted at igniting sentiments to undermine the position of Islam and Muslims," he said.

Fitna is a 15-minute film posted on a website on Thursday that highly criticises Islam, setting verses of the Quran against a background of violence. — Bernama

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DATUK ABDUL SHUKOR HUSIN

Dutch reject maker's interpretation in film

PUTRAJAYA: The Netherlands has condemned the violent acts in the controversial movie *Fitna* which has angered Muslims worldwide and said it rejected the film's interpretation of equating Islam with violence.

Netherlands Ambassador to Malaysia Lody Embrechts said yesterday the film did not in any way reflect the perspective or policy of the Dutch Government.

The movie shows the opinion of one man and not that of the Dutch Government, he said.

He said Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende had said the main thing was that the film shows images of violent acts and holds the Quran responsible for them.

"The Dutch Government condemns such acts and those who commit them. The film equates

Islam with violence. The Dutch Government rejects this interpretation," he told *Bernama* here.

Fitna, a 15-minute film posted on a website on Thursday, highly criticises Islam, setting verses of the Quran against a background of violent images from terrorist attacks.

Embrechts said the vast majority of Muslims reject extremism and violence. In fact, the victims are often also Muslims, he added.

The ambassador said his government was heartened by the initial restrained reactions of Dutch Muslim organisations, adding that Muslims, Christians and people of other convictions can easily live together in peace.

"The problem is not religion, but misuse of religion to sow hatred and intolerance," he said. — Bernama