

CNS0467

R GE 25-11 00181 EA959

aae tbe

Parliament-Keating

ACTION PLANNED AGAINST AUSTRALIA, DEWAN RAKYAT TOLD

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov. 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia would act against Australia for remarks made by its Prime Minister Paul Keating who branded Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad a "recalcitrant" because he did not attend the Seattle APBC leaders meeting.

Speaking to reporters at Parliament house, Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said, however, the government had yet to decide on the form, time and nature of the action.

"We are gathering feedback from all groups and when this is completed the Foreign Ministry will table it for the Cabinet's consideration," he added.

Keating was reported to have remarked that Dr Mahathir was "recalcitrant" for not attending the meeting while the Australian media called Dr Mahathir all sorts of names.

Asked whether the ministry had summoned the Australian High Commissioner John Dauth for clarification on the matter, Dr Abdullah said: "That will be one of the measures we will take." -- more

RA MTA LDB

▼25/11/19-22MST

R GE 25-11 00189 EA960

aae tbe

Parliament-Keating 2 Kuala Lumpur

He added, however, the issue would be resolved as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Umno Youth regretted the statement by Deputy Primary Industries Minister Tengku Datuk Mahmud Mansor that the criticisms against Dr Mahathir should not be related to trade between the two countries.

Its deputy chief Datuk Nazri Aziz told a press conference at Parliament House that the movement was unhappy with Mahmud's reply in the Dewan Rakyat on the matter yesterday.

Winding up the debate on matters which came under his ministry, Mahmud said although he agreed that Keating should be condemned for his remarks, it should not be linked to trade matters.

Nazri said Umno Youth was disappointed that Mahmud, a member of the government, did not consider the criticisms against the Prime Minister or his honour and Malaysia more important than trade.

On Mahmud's statement that the matter could be resolved through proper channels, he said the suggestion was ridiculous as the criticism was not made according to the proper channel. -- more

RA MTA LDB

▼25/11/19-28MST

R GE 25-11 00207 EA961

aae tbe

Parliament-Keating 3 Kuala Lumpur

"In some countries war can break out but, as we are matured, this is not happening," he said, adding that the issue could only be resolved if Keating made a public apology.

Australia should be taught the manners of Asians, he added.

Nazri said he believed Keating made the remarks out of anger because Dr Mahathir rejected the Australian government's application to extradite Raja Kamarul Baharin to Australia to face charges of abducting his children from the custody of his former wife Jacqueline Gillespie.

He added that Umno Youth would not budge from its demand that Keating apologise and if he failed to do so Umno Youth would initiate several moves including asking Malaysians not to invest in Australia.

Met later, Mahmud said his statement was made with the realisation that the ministry should not say anything that could jeopardise the country's economy.

He added: "We cannot give a view yet because our commodities are not stable. In business, we cannot make a mistake because one slight mistake and our business is finished, share prices will fall. The risks and implications are many. -- more

RA LDB

▼25/11/19-40MST

R GE 25-11 00092 EA962

aae tbe

Parliament-Keating 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

"For the ministry, in business even if the devil wants to buy we will sell."

Mahmud explained that whatever decision to be made by the ministry would have to await the decision of the Cabinet.

"We abide by the Cabinet decision... if the Cabinet says terminate we will terminate, if it says reduce we will reduce," he said in response to suggestions that the government cut down imports from Australia. -- Bernama

RA LDB