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Mohamed-BN

BN SUPREME COUNCIL MEETS ON TUESDAY ON US CONGRESSMEN'S MOVE

JOHOR BAHRU, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) Supreme Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday to discuss the US Congressmen's draft resolution calling on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to apologize or resign as Prime Minister.

"We think the statement by the US Congressmen who want the Prime Minister to apologize or resign is inappropriate, touches on our sovereignty and an interference in Malaysian politics," BN Secretary-General Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He said the BN felt that the meeting should be held to get the party's stand on the issue and also express its support for the national leadership.

The meeting has been scheduled for 10am at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Mohamed, who is Information Minister, said apart from that a decision had also been made that the Deputy Prime Minister move a motion in Parliament on Wednesday expressing full confidence in Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister.

"We feel that members of the Malaysian Parliament should state their stand. If the congressmen meet and discuss matters not appropriate to Malaysia, Malaysians MPs should state their stand on the Prime Minister and specify necessary action to handle the issue."

Mohamed said it was inappropriate for the Prime Minister to apologize as Dr Mahathir did not do anything wrong against America or its nationals.

On the call for his resignation, Mohamed said: "This is not their business. This is a matter for Malaysians."

"It is we who accept and determine the position of our leaders. This interference is very much regretted and it is not correct for a few Congressmen to try and disturb the functioning of Malaysian politics," he said.

Mohamed said they had also called for justice in Malaysia as though the Malaysian Government was unjust to non-Malays.

"I consider this as an incitement...a very mischievous one at that.. to create racial tension in Malaysia. We cannot tolerate this incitement because the BN concept is to ensure justice for all and we have done this well to the extent of ensuring no racial tension."

What they wanted to do was to create doubts and alarm and incite Malaysians of various races and cause rift among them, he said.

"As BN Secretary-General I want to remind the Congressmen not to allow their actions to cause Malaysians to hate America and its leaders. We have no intention whatsoever to hate America as we acknowledge the United States as a superpower and we wish to be on good terms which will bring mutual benefit to our countries and peoples," he said.

Mohamed said Malaysia-US relations had been good all this while and he hoped it would remain that way as there was so much at stake for both countries.

He was confident that the BN at its meeting on Tuesday would express full confidence in Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister and Chairman of the BN.

Meanwhile the Johor Umno Liaison Committee today condemned the draft resolution by the Congressmen.

Committee Chairman and Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said the Stae Umno strongly opposed the interference by the Congressmen in

Malaysia's democratic system.

"We decided to condemn the draft resolution which aimed at extending that country's laws at international level," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the committee here.

He said Johor Umno reiterated its full support for Dr Mahathir and had full confidence in him as Prime Minister. -- BERNAMA

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