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Crisis-Shafie

CURRENCY CRISIS WILL NOT LEAD TO RECESSION, SAYS SHAFIE

By: Salmy Hashim

WASHINGTON, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- The currency crisis now hurting Malaysia is not likely to lead the country into an economic recession, Information Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Mohd Shafiee Apdal said here Friday.

The impact of the depreciating ringgit, by about 30 per cent so far, would be felt by all Malaysians but this was only a temporary phenomenon, he told Malaysian students here.

Shafiee, who is also Umno education bureau secretary, is one of the four Malaysian members of parliament chosen as observers to the United Nations in New

York for a month-long stint.

He was in Washington for a one-day visit.

"Malaysia's economic fundamentals are strong, and with discipline I am confident that we can overcome this situation," he said.

He called on students and Malaysian officials here to exercise restraint in spending and do their bit to save on foreign exchange while in the United States.

He said Malaysians should continue to trust and support Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership in steering the country out of the crisis.

Shafiee, who is also an Umno Supreme Council member, enlightened the students on the haze situation in Malaysia, the Multimedia Super Corridor and the proposed Cyber laws, and measures within Umno to curb money politics.

Meanwhile in NEW YORK, Malaysia called on governments, international and regional organisations to upgrade the knowledge of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in human development and social work.

Kuala Nerus Member of Parliament Abdul Rahim Mohd Said made the call in a statement to the Third Committee of the 52nd session of the UN General Assembly.

The text of his statement was released in Kuala Lumpur today.

The committee dealt with was social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family.

Abdul Rahim said Malaysia's continued family development programme was aimed at strengthening the family institution to enable it contribute towards producing caring and responsible citizens.

He said with the increasing number of nuclear families and longer life expectancies, Malaysia had taken steps to ensure family ties were maintained and that the caring of the elderly continued to be a responsibility of the family. -

- BERNAMA

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