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Mahathir-Support

DR MAHATHIR APPRECIATES SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE, OPPOSITION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he highly appreciated expressions of support for his continued leadership and for his government from members of the public, Barisan Nasional leaders, organisations and opposition parties.

Describing the attack on the Malaysian economy particularly the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange and the ringgit as national problems, the Prime Minister said he was gratified to note that the people including the opposition had come out as one people to face this problem.

"I realise that if only government parties or only my friends had expressed such support then the foreign media and the currency traders will say I orchestrated such support."

"But we know that the opposition in Malaysia will not easily support the government or the Prime Minister, but in this matter of facing external attacks on the national economy, we are united in facing this problem as a free nation," he told reporters at Parliament House lobby.

"I am grateful and highly value the support shown to me. This is a national problem. What is happening affects everyone and not just the government or government parties."

"Everyone whether he supports the government or otherwise is poorer by 25 per cent than before. Hence it is best that we look upon this as a national problem and be united in handling it."

The Prime Minister said he and the government would use the support from the people to continue to fight injustice faced by the developing countries arising from the continuous attack by currency manipulators and speculators.

Dr Mahathir said irresponsible currency traders had reaped no small profits but profits which ran into thousands of millions of ringgit and in the process made the poor countries poorer.

"Looking at them we feel as though there is war. They attack, they do not trade. What type of trade is this when you attack, attack that people's currency, this people's currency and we know each time they attack, they reap huge profits," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said the currency traders were people who were very rich as they had impoverished other people and they held to the creed that "greed is great."

"They must be greedy as for them greed is very good. I don't know what type of people is this who look upon greed as a virtue. This is the type of people...", he said.

Dr Mahathir said this attack on the national economy was discussed at today's meeting of the Cabinet with a view to finding ways to resolve it.

Expressing gratitude to Allah S.W.T. (Alhamdulillah), he said one of the ways had already be achieved -- the strong bond of unity among the people in facing this problem.

"Secondly, we must have discipline in facing the problem. If we are traders and we take advantage of the present situation to jack up prices to make bigger profits then our economy will become worse and we will face bigger problems," the Prime Minister said.

Meanwhile the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry today expressed its full support for the Prime Minister in his efforts to resolve the economic problems facing the nation.

Association President Tan Sri Wee Boon Ping said during this period it

was very necessary for the people to be solidly behind the Prime Minister and his government.

In a statement, he urged the entire Chinese business community to give its solid support to Dr Mahathir.

He said the chamber would hold a special meeting on Oct 18 and hand over a memorandum to the government.

In SEREMBAN, the Negeri Sembilan Umno Liaison Committee expressed confidence that Dr Mahathir would be able to overcome the current economic problems facing the country.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad and committee chairman said no one should doubt Dr Mahathir's ability in surmounting this crisis.

He was speaking after chairing a meeting of the liaison committee.

In JITRA, Barisan Nasional leaders from Kubang Pasu, the Prime Minister's parliamentary constituency, Shuib Din (Divisional Umno Secretary), Umno Youth Chief Ahmad Zaini Jaafar, MCA head Wong Poh Teik and MIC Chief R.Shanmugam also expressed similar support at a news conference.

Dr Mahathir's success in leading Malaysia to prosperity had incurred the envy of certain outside forces, they said.

The division's Wanita head and Member of Legislative Assembly for Tunjang Barishah Saad also expressed confidence that the Prime Minister would be able to revitalise the national economy. -- BERNAMA

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