

09/10/1997

MPs, senators to explain move to discredit leadership

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Members of the Backbenchers Club, Barisan Nasional MPs and senators today vowed to go to the grassroots to explain to the people the move by certain quarters to sow discontent with the leadership to hide their attack on the country's economy.

Representatives of the three groups met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to pledge their support for him at Parliament House today.

Backbenchers Club president Ruhanie Ahmad, acting as spokesman, said the people must not be misled by these quarters, including the media, who were out to discredit Dr Mahathir.

"They say that when the Prime Minister speaks, the ringgit falls. We hope the rakyat will not succumb to such lies as even if the Prime Minister does not speak, the ringgit will still fall just like the currencies of other countries in the region.

"They have targeted us as we are an emerging economy and they are trying to legitimise what they are doing by focusing on Dr Mahathir as the main problem causing the economic crisis," he told reporters.

Ruhanie, who is also MP for Parit Sulong, said what Dr Mahathir had called for, with regard to regulating currency trading, had been recognised by the International Monetary Fund.

"This is a proud moment for us as our Prime Minister's initiative has gained the attention of the world body, especially when the problem at hand is affecting the region and not just us," he said.

He also said the three groups wanted to send a message to those who were out to discredit the country's leadership that they would fail in their attempt and that the people would stand behind the Prime Minister and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in facing the crisis.

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