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MB-Protest

MENTERIS BESAR, CHIEF MINISTERS CONDEMN US CONGRESSMEN'S MOVE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- All the 13 menteri besar and chief ministers today joined in the protest against the action of 27 US Congressmen in supporting a draft resolution against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Strongly condemning the interference by the Congressmen in Malaysia's internal affairs, they pledged in a joint resolution to fully support all actions by the prime minister.

All the menteri besar and chief ministers were in the federal capital accompanying their respective rulers, yang dipetua negeri or their representatives to the meeting of the Conference of Rulers at Istana Negara.

Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad read out the handwritten resolution at a news conference at the Yayasan Pembangunan Iktisad Islam Malaysia office at Menara Promet, here.

All the menteri besar, including Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat of Kelantan, the only state not under Barisan Nasional rule, signed the resolution which was later handed over to Dr Mahathir.

The Congressmen's draft resolution introduced by Robert Wexler, the Democrat member from Florida, calls on the prime minister to apologise or resign for his alleged anti-American and anti-Jewish remarks.

Besides Wan Mokhtar, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Isa Abdul Samad and Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon were also present at the news conference.

In their resolution the menteri besar and chief ministers said they would support all actions to tackle the economic challenges and fight attacks on the country's dignity and economy.

Yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he would table a motion of confidence in Dr Mahathir as the prime minister at the current sitting of the Dewan Rakyat.

This morning the the Barisan Nasional Youth presented a protest note on the Congressmen's draft resolution at the US embassy here.

Meanwhile, in TENOM, Sabah, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, commenting on the draft resolution, said the US was becoming more arrogant and boastful, wanting to have the whole world under its thumb and this should not be tolerated.

He said this arrogance and disrespect for others was evident from its frequent interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

"No country wants interference from any quarters and we also do not want to interfere in the affairs of others but in this case the US's arrogance and disrespect for others is evident," he said before a meeting with Tenom and Keningau Umno division leaders today.

Abdullah, who is also an Umno vice-president, said the Congressmen's action was an insult to Malaysians and hence Malaysians should stand solidly behind Dr Mahathir and show their support for the country's leadership.

Saying that Malaysia could not accept the Congressmen's interference in the affairs of another country, Abdullah called the the people to block any attempt to bring the draft resolution to the American Congress.

"We cannot bow to any outside pressure like this because we are a sovereign state. The government only bows to its country's own citizens because they choose the leaders through elections," he said.

On the US proposal to investigate Petronas over its investments in Iran, Abdullah said an American officer would arrive in Kuala Lumpur next Tuesday to meet Foreign Ministry officials to explain the resolution on economic sanctions on Iran and Libya.

In KUALA LUMPUR, the 300,000-strong 4B Youth Movement said it would send a letter to Wexler tomorrow condemning his action and that of the other 26 Congressmen for interfering in Malaysia's internal affairs.

Its president, Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam said the movement would also send a protest note to the US embassy tomorrow to show the people's united support for Dr Mahathir.

A copy of the note would also be sent to the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, to inform the world youth body of Malaysia's stand on the issue, Mohamed Ali, who is also WAY president, told a news conference. -- BERNAMA

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