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MIC-Mahathir

MIC URGES DR MAHATHIR TO FIGHT ON AND PROVE CRITICS WRONG

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The MIC Central Working Committee (CWC) today passed a resolution calling on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to "fight on" and to prove his critics wrong by overcoming the country's current economic problems.

"The MIC appeals to the Prime Minister to continue to be steadfast in his determination to overcome the present economic problems," the resolution said.

MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu who read the resolution at a news conference after chairing the meeting here said, the CWC resolved "to affirm its unequivocal support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the head of the federal government".

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said the MIC "will stand by Dr Mahathir at all times to overcome the current economic problems".

"The MIC strongly supports the Prime Minister's call to the nation to face this temporary setback with courage, discipline, wisdom and avoid panic over the situation," he said.

The resolution comes in the wake of foreign news reports which suggested that Malaysia may be facing an economic recession following the fall of the ringgit and the stock market.

The ringgit has lost about 30 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar while the stock market has lost more than one-third of its capitalisation following the devaluation of the Thai baht on July 2.

Samy Vellu said the MIC was aware that some sections of Malaysians were upset over the economic problems confronting the country as a result of the current downtrend of the ringgit and the stock market.

"The MIC feels that this is the time Malaysians should rally behind the Prime Minister in extending their unflinching support to weather the economic problems and is confident that the economy will be back on track soon," he said.

The party also called on all Malaysians to be vigilant against outside interferences to destroy the unity of the people and the economy of the nation.

He said they should also be ready for any sacrifices to cut wastage, extravagance and stop imports that are superfluous to the economy to check the current account deficit.

The MIC chief said the party could mobilise its 450,000-strong members to enhance productivity in these challenging times as expected of them as loyal citizens.

In ALOR SETAR, the Kedah branch of the Malaysian Youth Council voiced full support for Dr Mahathir in his handling of the present economic problems.

Its president Datuk Zainol Abidin Johari said a telegram to this effect had been sent to the Prime Minister.

He said the council hoped the Prime Minister would not budge from his firm and courageous stand in voicing the people's feelings.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Umno Information Chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor expressed the hope that Malaysians would not be influenced by western media articles critical of Dr Mahathir.

He such criticism was being made out of envy of the Prime Minister's achievements for Malaysia.

He called on everyone including non-Umno members to show their full

support for the prime minister's leadership. -- BERNAMA  
SBJ AAM