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Mahathir-Support (Roundup)
MORE SUPPORT FOR DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Support for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his leadership continued in the wake of a US draft congressional resolution asking him to apologize for allegedly making anti-Jewish remarks or resign.

The MCA, Gerakan and Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) were among the latest to join the chorus of protest against the bid by 27 congressmen led by Florida Democrat Robert Wexler.

Dr Mahathir had clarified that his remarks blaming American financier, George Soros, who is a Jew, for the currency crisis in Southeast Asia had been misinterpreted and that he was not anti-Semitic.

MCA secretary-general Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh today issued a statement describing the draft resolution as an irresponsible act of mischief by a small group of misinformed US Congressmen.

"Such a draft resolution is indeed an insult to the democratic process and disregards the will of the people of Malaysia," said Ting, adding that it should not be allowed to jeopardise the long-standing warm relationship between the governments and people of the two countries.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the congressmen were adopting a racist attitude and were seeking to interfere in the internal affairs of Malaysia.

Expressing full support for Dr Mahathir, Dr Lim said the Prime Minister was chosen by the people of Malaysia and it was not for the US congressmen to ask him to resign.

Pos Malaysia Berhad held a gathering at the company's headquarters at which some 500 employees pledged their undivided support for Dr Mahathir and the government.

"As responsible Malaysians, Pos Malaysia employees wish to defend Malaysia's good name. We are not prepared to see Malaysia belittled and looked down upon," said its Executive Chairman Tan Sri Zainol Mahmood when addressing the gathering.

MTUC president Zainal Rampak said the draft resolution was irresponsible and highly mischievous.

He said the US Congressmen did not have any right to demand that Dr Mahathir apologize and resign as the Prime Minister was only answerable to Malaysians who elected him to Parliament.

"And not to any Tom, Dick or Harry who thinks he can sit in judgement against the wishes of 20 million Malaysians," he said in a two-page statement.

The opposition Parti Rakyat Malaysia said the US Congressmen's act was both arrogant and undemocratic and urged the government not to bow to the pressure.

Party secretary general Dr Sanusi Osman said : "The act of these Congressmen has surely strengthened our party's view that the US Congress is anti-third world countries, anti-Palestine and pro-Israel".

In MARANG, Terengganu, Umno Information Chief Datuk Dr Yusof Noor described the congressmen's action as undemocratic.

He said the so called champions of democracy were unable to translate the meaning of democracy in their actions.

In PASIR MAS, Kelantan some 1,000 Umno Youth members held a gathering at Kampung Kubang Batang, Wakaf Bharu to protest the move by the US Congressmen.

They said the move was an interference in Malaysia's internal affairs.

The gathering was led by Pasir PAS Umno Youth Chief Shamsul Bahari Ismail. Also present was Pasir Mas Umno Division head Datuk Ibrahim Ali who is also Umno Supreme Council member.

Meanwhile Gerakan Deputy President Datuk Kerk Choo Ting said representatives of youth wings of Barisan Nasional component parties might need to go to the United States to express their feelings over the congressmen's resolution.

They could more effectively explain their position and objections to the relevant parties there, he said.

This was better than explaining from here, he told reporters. --

BERNAMA

MNY AAM