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Mahathir-Support

NIK AZIZ EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT FOR DR MAHATHIR

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said today Malaysians should place their full trust and confidence in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to lead the country and resolve the financial crisis being faced now.

He said there was no need for Dr Mahathir to resign merely because of the fluctuations in the value of the ringgit for such fluctuations were also being experienced by other currencies including those in Southeast Asia.

"The question of resignation is a big issue particularly when it involves the person of the Prime Minister. The ringgit depreciation is no fault of the Prime Minister," he told a news conference at his office here.

Nik Aziz said if Dr Mahathir resigned and other leaders in the country also involved in the economic management did not do so, then the ringgit problem would remain unresolved.

"Under the present circumstances, even if Dr Mahathir resigns the problem will not be resolved, others cannot just jack up the value of the ringgit... and it does not mean that the next person is better than him," Nik Aziz said.

"I do not agree that the Prime Minister should step down as this is only a passing problem which can be resolved," he said.

He said in view of the present situation, the government should practise thrift and postpone all big projects.

In this respect, the central government should abolish the Federal Development Department in Kelantan which was a wastage of funds and not benefiting the people.

Its duties could be transferred to the state government, he said.

Wanita Umno head Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said its members were solidly behind Dr Mahathir both in times of adversity as well as prosperity.

She said the movement would remain united in facing the present problems.

In IPOH, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib on behalf of the government and people in the state expressed solid support for Dr Mahathir in facing the depreciation of the ringgit and the fall in the stock market.

"The Perak Government has full confidence in Dr Mahathir's ability to resolve the problems facing the country," he said.

Deputy President Datuk Law Hieng Ding said now was the time for Malaysians to prove their loyalty and love for the Prime Minister who had worked tirelessly for the development of this country.

The people had benefited all this while from the struggle of the Prime Minister and when he faced pressure from outsiders, it was only right that the people should rally behind him, he said.

Law said the SUPP was confident that under the wise leadership of Dr Mahathir the economy would not only remain strong but become even stronger.

Meanwhile Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) Deputy President Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Abang Haji Mustapha in a statement condemned the "immoral" action of the western media in interfering in the country's administration by presurring Dr Mahathir to step down.

Expressing the PBB's undivided support for the Prime Minister's continued leadership of the country, he said the western media's action was a nasty plot.

Abang Abu Bakar, who is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said the western media was trying to jeopardise and destabilise the country to facilitate economic colonialism.

"I along with my Cabinet colleagues in the Federal Cabinet and with other Barisan Nasional component parties fully support the leadership of the YAB Prime Minister and support his efforts and that of his deputy to counter the attacks of the "pirates" who had adversely affected the share market and the country's currency," he said.

He said the Prime Minister's style of leadership had been accepted by all Malaysians.

The Kuala Lumpur City Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry also expressed its appreciation and support for Dr Mahathir.

Its Acting president Syed Amin AlJeffri in a statement said Dr Mahathir's measures to restore the value of the ringgit were wise and timely.

"The Prime Minister's speeches cannot be faulted for the ringgit depreciation as the it is an internatinal issue and we support whatever action the Prime Minister takes to improve the country's economy," he said.

The Malay Journalists Association in a statement said it was very much slighted by the western media's criticism of Dr Mahathir.

Assocation president Yazid Haji Othman said: "We reject in toto the views of the western media as they are clearly intended to discredit Dr Mahathir for neither rhyme nor reason."

It reminded the western media that Dr Mahathir was the democratically elected leader of the Malaysian people. -- BERNAMA

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