

11/10/1997

Razaleigh: Accusations baseless

GUA MUSANG, Fri. - Gua Musang Member of Parliament Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today no one should make baseless accusations against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad over the weakening of the ringgit.

He said there should be no finger-pointing during the present situation and the people should remain united and place their confidence in the Government's leadership.

"We cannot blame anyone ... some people are trying to accuse the Prime Minister as the source of the problem. To me such an accusation is baseless," he said when addressing the Kelantan MCA's 48th anniversary dinner as its guest of honour here last night.

Bernamea reported that the former Finance Minister said the speculative attacks on currencies had affected all Asean countries and Malaysians therefore should place their trust in the Barisan Nasional which had its own formula to resolve the matter.

On the BN, Tengku Razaleigh said it should be further strengthened although it had proved to be the best arrangement for the nation.

"I myself in the course of my political career had tried to set up another coalition using the BN model but failed because many gave priority to individual positions and their respective ideologies and were unable to accept moderation in their political approach," Razaleigh said.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the country should take pride in the present leadership as it had made Malaysia a model nation among developing countries.

The BN Government's success was not limited to bringing development and prosperity to the country but also in strengthening peace and harmony among the various races.

Dr Ling said Malaysia's Chinese community placed all its trust and confidence in Dr Mahathir.

He said that the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Chinese Assembly Halls were united with the MCA in giving 100 per cent support to the Prime Minister.

Kelantan MCA chairman Datuk Fong Chan Onn was among the over 1,000 State MCA members present at the dinner.

In Kota Kinabalu, the Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah pledged its full support and confidence in Dr Mahathir and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to overcome the present currency turmoil affecting Malaysia.

PBRs president Datuk Joseph Kurup said the party believed in the leadership's ability to find ways and means to deal with the problem.

He said there was no reason why the problem could not be overcome if all Malaysians gave their full support and confidence to the national leadership.

"We should show to the world, especially those who are out to destroy the Malaysian economy, that we are united in surmounting problems affecting our country," he said.

Kurup, who is Deputy Chief Minister, said Mahathir deserved to be given full support for it was under his leadership that Malaysia had emerged as one of the fastest developing nations in the world.

(END)