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Zahid-Human Rights

REVIEW UN HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION, SAYS UMNO YOUTH

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth wants the United Nations Human Rights Declaration reviewed to prevent international fund managers from manipulating the currencies of developing nations.

It leader, Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, also criticised the big powers for defending the action of US financier George Soros, which had destabilised the currencies of several Southeast Asian countries, in the name of human rights, but keeping quiet when the economies of the small and poor nations were destroyed by people like him.

"We want the right of a developing country like Malaysia to enjoy prosperity and freedom from economic imperialism to be part of the basic human rights that are guaranteed," he said.

Hence, he said, Umno Youth proposed the setting up of a fund among the central banks of developing countries in Asia and Africa to counter the bad intentions of foreign speculators.

Umno Youth also wanted the import export focus to be diverted from the developed to the developing nations in line with the South-South spirit, he said after chairing a round-table conference on speculative attacks on the Malaysian ringgit, here.

Meanwhile, Umno Youth refuted claims that the move for a review of the declaration was not supported by the political youth branches and leaders of the region.

"I refute (US State Secretary) Madeleine Albright's statement in Singapore that the move does not reflect the stand and views of the youth and leaders of this region," Umno Youth deputy head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said.

Albright, during a visit to Singapore early this week after attending the Asean Regional Forum and Asean Post-Ministerial Meeting here, was reported as saying that the views of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in calling for a review of the declaration did not reflect the thinking of the young generation in Asean.

The conference, organised by the movement's Economic Bureau, was attended by intellectuals and economists including Bank Negara Governor Datuk Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

It also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between P.T Adhisamudra of Indonesia and two Malaysian companies -- Nordant Builders Sdn Bhd and Pet Vest Sdn Bhd -- for the import of sand for land reclamation projects in Malaysia. -- BERNAMA

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