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Yong-Mahathir

SABAH GOVT EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT FOR DR MAHATHIR

KOTA KINABALU, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee today led his government in expresssing undivided support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in overcoming the current challenges stemming from the depreciating ringgit and the share market.

"The Sabah Government has full confidence in the ability of the Central Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister to successfully overcome the currency crisis presently faced by our country," he said in a statement.

Yong, who is also the state Barisan Nasional chairman, said the country needed strong leadership now more than ever before, and that every citizen must rise in tandem to fight what he termed as foreign attempts at running down Malaysia.

"We have heard sceptics and critics who had attributed the further depreciating ringgit to Dr Mahathir's speech in Hong Kong and Chile recently, but this is unfounded, as Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines also faced similar problems though their leaders had not issued any statement," he said

Asked on the foreign media suggesting that Dr Mahathir step down for failing to overcome the crisis, Yong said the foreign media had their own ulterior motives in making the proposal.

Yong also said that leaders of the country including those in the private sectors must take advantage of the less expensive ringgit as "in every crisis there would be both challenges and opportunities".

"This is the time for us to increase efficiency, increase exports, and reduce imports and wastage. Those who could not reduce wastage stand to lose," he said noting that the manufacturing sector must adapt itself accordingly in order to capitalise on the current situation. --BERNAMA

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