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Nik Aziz-Mahathir

SET ASIDE DIFFERENCES AND SUPPORT MAHATHIR, SAYS NIK AZIZ

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today called on everyone to set aside differences and be united in their opposition to the action of a group of US Congressmen demanding an apology or resignation by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"If foreigners seek to trouble us, we need to unite. We need to teach America that...outsiders cannot disturb us and we too won't disturb America," he told reporters here.

Saying that his recent statement supporting Dr Mahathir was made sincerely, Nik Aziz urged all groups to joint forces in dealing with the congressmen's action as it involved the nation's honour and interest.

The PAS leader said the party was prepared to set aside political differences and voice support for the government to safeguard the interest of the people and country and ensure that the United States did not bully other nations.

On Thursday, all Menteri Besar and chief ministers including Nik Aziz signed a statement opposing a draft resolution by the US Congressmen asking Dr Mahathir to apologize or resign for his alleged anti-Jewish remarks.

Asked if his expression of support for Dr Mahathir went against the political thinking of PAS, Nik Aziz said the action was appropriate as PAS need not oppose everything that Umno leaders did.

"Umno should not oppose everything that PAS does and PAS should not oppose everything Umno does, there must be a meeting point...otherwise people will call us arrogant," he said.

On the cold response from some PAS members to his call, Nik Aziz said this was because some of them were confused as they had not yet received the correct information.

However, upon being explained that the call was made in the interest of the nation they accepted his action, he said.

In MELAKA, Malaysian Youth Council president Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim said the council would mobilise its 1.8 million members at a huge gathering in Kuala Lumpur if the US Congress accepted the draft resolution.

The gathering would prove the people's support for Dr Mahathir and opposition to the congressmen's action, he told reporters.

In KOTA KINABALU, Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) president Datuk Joseph Kurup described the congressmen's action as a violation of Malaysia's democratic principles.

PBRS opposed foreign leaders seeking to determine the leadership of this country, he said after chairing a supreme council meeting of the party. -- BERNAMA

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