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Anwar-Soros

SOROS'S CRITICISM OF MALAYSIA ABSURB, SAYS ANWAR

By: Azman Ujang

HONG KONG, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said tonight remarks by U.S. currency speculator George Soros that he has been made a scapegoat for Malaysia's currency crisis is absurd.

"I think Mr Soros misses the point. To refer to the criticism by the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) as something personal to cover the weaknesses of the Malaysian economy or political system is absurd.

"What cannot be denied is that we are facing a major problem and challenge from unscrupulous speculators in the currency and stock markets," he told reporters, here.

Soros said during a World Bank seminar here earlier today that he had been made a scapegoat by Dr Mahathir for the depreciation of the ringgit to cover up for Dr Mahathir's own failure.

The billionaire also launched his own attack of Dr Mahathir, saying among other things that he had be subjected to all kinds of false and vile accusations as the man behind the currency turmoil in the region.

Anwar, who is here to attend the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings, said excessive speculation in the market was an issue which Soros should address.

"I recall the article he wrote talking about immoral and unethical behaviour and market imperfections. Why is that he has forgotten when he deals with market and currency speculations?

"You mean to say, that can be defended as a moral activity. We should then confine ourselves to this specific issue rather than to digress to other issues," he said. --BERNAMA

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