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State Assemblies pledge support to Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Two State Assemblies - Pahang and Sabah - today pledged their support to the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In Kuantan, all 38 State Assemblymen, including the sole DAP representative, passed a motion to support Dr Mahathir and object to the draft resolution of the 34 United States Congressmen asking the Prime Minister to apologise or resign because of his alleged "anti-American and anti-Semitic" remarks.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob moved the emergency motion after Speaker Datuk Abdullah Kia ruled that the issue on hand was a definite matter, urgent and of public interest.

The motion was unanimously passed after it was debated by five Assemblymen.

Khalil said the tabling of the motion was to tell the nation and the world that the State Assembly and people of Pahang stood firmly behind Dr Mahathir in handling issues which involved the dignity and interest of the country.

"I am aware that as far as diplomatic, foreign policy and trade are concerned, Malaysia has good relationships with the US.

"In this context, we have to take into consideration a report on a statement by a US State Department officer who described the action by the Congressmen as counterproductive and could trigger a strong reaction from Malaysia," he said.

In seconding the motion, Datuk Ibrahim Taib (BN-Sungai Lembing) described the Congressmen's resolution as uncalled for, ridiculous, unwise, inappropriate and undemocratic.

Ti Lian Ker (BN-Bandar Indera Mahkota) said Malaysia was an independent, free and sovereign country which practised a democratic system. He called on fellow Malaysians to be wary of attempts to sabotage the country's democracy.

Leong Ngah Ngah (DAP-Triang) said he supported the motion because outside people had no business meddling in the country's affairs.

Datuk Loke Koon Kam (BN-Ketari) and R. Sinnathamby (BN-Sabai) also took part in the debate.

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Hassan Alban Sandukong led members of the House, including those in the opposition, to pledge support to Dr Mahathir.

In a statement signed by all members of the House, they condemned the draft resolution of the 34 US Congressmen and their letter to Dr Mahathir.

Among the members who signed the statement were Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee and Opposition leader Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan, who is Parti Bersatu Sabah president.

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