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Support Dr M, says Nik Aziz

KOTA BARU, Sun. - Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said Malaysians must unite against any attempt by foreign powers to undermine the leadership.

He said no country had the right to interfere in Malaysia's domestic affairs.

Expressing support for the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said Pas opposed the move by 34 US Congressmen asking the Prime Minister to apologise or resign because of his alleged "anti-American and anti-semitic" remarks.

Nik Aziz, who is the party's Consultative Council head, said the US could not be allowed to do as it pleased.

"Though there exist political differences between Umno and Pas, there are times when we have to support Umno and vice versa," he told reporters after opening a Perkim workshop here.

Nik Aziz said he was aware that some quarters in Pas were not happy with his decision.

"This is new (the support for Dr Mahathir) but the members will understand once the party explains to them that we are doing it for the country."

In Seremban, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the party would voice its support for Dr Mahathir at a Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters after officiating the TAFE College's fourth convocation, he said the MIC supported all decisions by the Prime Minister.

In Malacca, about 3,000 people turned up at the Kubu Stadium last night to show support for Dr Mahathir's leadership.

Among those at the function, organised by the State Patriotic Association, were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin, association president Datuk Wong Akau and State Executive Councillors.

In his speech, Abu Zahar said no foreigner should be allowed to meddle in the country's affairs.

"The action by these Congressmen is totally undemocratic and baseless. It is meant to hurt us and our leaders," he said.

Later at his residence, some 500 Umno members from the Rim constituency, led by State Assemblyman Dollah Atan and Sungai Rambai State Assemblyman Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, handed to Abu Zahar a memorandum pledging their support for the present leadership.

In a related development, some 300 Malaysian Youth Council members led by its president Datuk Suhaimi Kamaruddin held a protest rally at the Ayer Keroh Sports and Youth Complex near here.

Suhaimi said the council, which has more than 1.8 million members, would organise a mammoth rally if the US Government endorsed the resolution.

The Institute of Engineers Malaysia president Mohd Mazlan said IEM council passed a resolution supporting Dr Mahathir and the Government.

"We consider it a setback and not a crisis because once the problems are overcome, our country will be even stronger," he said at the IEM Perak branch dinner in Ipoh last night.

In Johor, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said the State Umno was solidly behind the Prime Minister.

He said the State Umno liaison committee members also condemned the

attempt by the Congressmen to interfere in Malaysia's internal affairs. "We strongly object to their intervention in our democratic system and election process," he said after a liaison committee meeting yesterday.

He said the committee also criticised the Congressmen's claims of racial discrimination in Malaysia, adding that this was a ploy to stir racial tension in the country.

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