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Two States give Dr M full backing

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Two State Assemblies today passed a resolution fully backing Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister and his efforts to improve the economy.

In Penang, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon moved a motion on the resolution saying it was important and of public interest. In Perlis, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim did the same in the Perlis State Assembly.

The resolution read "This State Assembly affirms to:

- \* Give full confidence and solid support to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the Prime Minister and our national leadership in their efforts to overcome all current economic challenges and to counter all attacks on our national leadership;

- \* Uphold and continue to promote the principles of democracy and consultation and the practice of goodwill amongst Malaysia's multiracial society as an independent and sovereign nation;

- \* Oppose attempts of interference in our country's domestic affairs by members of the United States Congress which contravenes Malaysians' right to elect our own leadership through the democratic process;

- \* Endeavour to continuously improve the good relationship between Malaysians in Penang and the international community, including the United States, in economic, social, cultural and educational fields; and,

- \* Appeal to all the people of Penang to be even more closely united and work with our national leadership to ensure continued peace and stability, increased economic productivity and a better quality of life and to practise the fine values in our religions and traditions."

Koh spent some time listing the good that Dr Mahathir had done since becoming Prime Minister 16 years ago, especially how he had brought prosperity and unity to the nation.

He also outlined the good name Dr Mahathir had brought to the nation in the international arena and how the country today was well respected internationally.

Koh stressed that the confidence vote was "not blind confidence in Dr Mahathir and neither is it being given because we have been told to do so. The trust in and support for Dr Mahathir has long existed in our hearts. Recent events have given us an opportunity to voice them".

He said: "I also want to stress that this resolution does not mean we are against the American people. In fact, we have, are and will continue to welcome investors and tourists from US and other countries.

"In Penang, multinational corporations including from the US have long worked together with Malaysians. We will continue to work to improve bilateral ties with the US.

"What we protest is the arrogance of a small group of the American leaders who criticise and humiliate our leaders. It is probable their arrogance comes from the fact they think the US is the most powerful nation in the world.

"They think might is right. This resolution is to show them that might is not right and that right ultimately determines might."

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar, in seconding the resolution, praised Dr Mahathir for his immense contribution to the people.

"This resolution is made because Penang people are eager to show their

support for the Prime Minister. I was also happy to read in the newspapers that Opposition leaders such as (DAP secretary-general) Lim Kit Siang had in Parliament expressed support for Dr Mahathir."

Sole Opposition member Chong Eng (DAP-Batu Lanchang) said she could only give "qualified support" to the resolution as it contained "too many elements".

She said since the issue at hand was the proposal by 34 US Congressmen to move a resolution asking Dr Mahathir to withdraw what they claimed were his anti-Semitic statements or resign, the resolution should have been specific to this.

"The stand of the DAP is clear: we will support Dr Mahathir if there is any external threat or if outside forces try to interfere in our affairs. Outsiders have no business to tell us who should or should not be our Prime Minister."

She was interrupted many times as she read out the resolution proposed by the 34 Congressmen.

State MCA chairman and Executive Councillor Dr Sak Cheng Lum (BN-Bagan Jermal) said the issue was one which touched on the dignity of the country and should not go unanswered.

Meanwhile, at the Perlis Assembly, Nordin Abdullah (BN-Beseri) said everyone including Opposition members must rally behind Dr Mahathir in standing up to America's bullying tactics.

Loh Yoon Foo (BN-Titi Tinggi) related his pleasant experience of being welcomed as a Malaysian by Israeli immigration officers during a recent visit to Jerusalem.

He said he would not have been accorded the special treatment if the Malaysian leadership was anti-Semitic.

Karim Salleh (BN-Sanglang) said Malaysia's administrators have proven their quality in handling outstanding problems in the past and they should be given undivided support to tackle those cropping up recently.

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