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Youth-Finance

UMNO YOUTH WANTS ASEAN COMMON STAND AGAINST SPECULATIVE ATTACKS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth today called on Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to convene an unofficial meeting of Asean finance ministers to adopt a common stand against foreign attacks on the region's economic stability.

Its chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the meeting could identify the best steps to allow the region to maintain its rapid economic growth.

"We want the meeting to further involve other East Asian nations within the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC)," he told reporters after chairing Umno Youth special meeting on the local currency and stock market crisis.

He said Umno Youth wants developed East Asian nations like Japan and South Korea to play an active role in aiding Southeast Asia because prosperity in this region would benefit others as well.

Ahmad Zahid said Umno Youth would submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today in connection with Malaysia's economic woes.

He said Umno Youth wants Dr Mahathir to continue leading the nation and was confident the prime minister, deputy prime minister and other cabinet members would continue their agenda to restore the nation's economic glory.

"Umno Youth wishes to warn people who attempt to shake the nation's leadership," Ahmad Zahid said in a press statement.

The foreign media has claimed that Dr Mahathir had failed to solve the current crisis and suggested that he step down.

Umno Youth wants Barisan Nasional party leaders not to entertain requests for interviews with the foreign media because they had the intention of twisting statements which will only make the situation worse, he said.

"There is a conspiracy to create ill feeling among Asean members against the prime minister who was depicted as the cause of the financial crisis affecting South East Asia," he said.

"We ask the Information Minister to contact his counterparts to ensure that Asean is not influenced by the foreign media apart from taking steps to ward off the attacks," Ahmad Zahid said.

He said the local press should not play into the hands of foreign media by publishing their reports which tried to destabilise the country.

Ahmad Zahid said the people should not be influenced and confused by indices at Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange because it was not the yardstick to gauge the nation's economic strength and standing.

Umno Youth called on academicians, economists, fund managers, corporate figures and non-governmental organisations to pool their resources to help strengthen the nation's economy. -- BERNAMA

MAM ZUL AAM