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Umno-support

UMNO YOUTH PLEDGES FULL SUPPORT TO PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Umno Youth leader Datuk Hishamuddin Tun Hussein said the movement fully supports Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and has confidence in his handling of the currency crisis affecting the country.

"I'm confident that Dr Mahathir and his deputy (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) will be able to steer the country out of the currency crisis and the economic situation experienced for the past few months," he said in a statement issued here today.

Hishammuddin, who is also Deputy Primary Industries Minister, hit out international media for suggesting that Dr Mahathir should resign following the currency crisis.

Umno Youth, he said, believed that there were parties trying to take advantage of the situation "to isolate Malaysia from the rest of the world, to isolate Dr Mahathir from the people and to put the country leaders at loggerheads."

He called on Umno Youth members and the people to have the sense of priority to stand solidly behind Dr Mahathir in facing and resolving problems facing the country.

"We are endowed with cultures, let us not be ungrateful society grasping profits when the nation enjoys prosperity but when the nation needs our help and assistance we still think of profits to take home," he said.

Hishammuddin named the Newsweek as among the foreign media which were trying to influence local politics by suggesting that Dr Mahathir should resign.

"The Umno Youth is very upset with such suggestion," he said, adding that Malaysians did not need outsiders to tell them how to govern their country.

He also accused the Associated Press for twisting the facts of the TIME International's interview with Anwar. Anwar was reported to have warned that racial riot would erupt in Malaysia if the country could not maintain an economic growth of at least four per cent a year.

The magazine in a subtle manner also suggested that Dr Mahathir should resign by quoting several Umno leaders who were unhappy and angry with the Prime Minister over the way he handled the crisis affecting the country.

"I wish to stress that the Umno Youth and the people of Malaysia will stand solidly behind the Prime Minister who has sacrificed his time and energy in leading the country for over a decade," he said.

--BERNAMA

ZKS ABG