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Unanimous support in Sarawak assembly

KUCHING, Thurs. - All 62 members of the Sarawak Legislative Assembly, including two DAP members and two Independents, today voted in favour of a motion of confidence in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to continue leading the country.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud tabled the motion at 4.15pm and it was unanimously approved at 6.10pm, after being debated by seven Assemblymen, through a show of hands.

The motion was prompted by a draft resolution by 34 United States Congressmen asking Dr Mahathir to either make a public apology or resign for his alleged anti-semitic and anti-American remarks, and attempts made by US government officials to investigate Petronas' legitimate investments in Iran.

The motion contained the following:

- * To strongly condemn and reject the said draft resolution by the US Congressmen and any decision, attempts by any US agency to investigate the legitimate investments of Petronas

- * To reaffirm unequivocally its continued support for the leadership of Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister of Malaysia, and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

- * To strongly condemn and oppose any attempt from any quarter including the citizens of the US to interfere with the internal affairs of Malaysia, or to undermine our nation's sovereignty or integrity or our democratically elected national leadership

- * To acknowledge the significant contributions and achievements of the Prime Minister, under whose able and strong leadership Malaysia has achieved unprecedented economic growth and prosperity, enjoyed peace, progress, religious tolerance and racial harmony, gained international recognition and respect, and under whose guidance and understanding, relationship between the State and Federal governments have strengthened and national unity and integration greatly enhanced.

In tabling the motion, Taib said: "Such actions (by US Congressmen) constitute blatant and totally unacceptable interference in our internal affairs and our democratically elected national leadership, as well as unwarranted attempt to undermine our nation's sovereignty and integrity."

Jason Wong Sing Nang (DAP-Pelawan), who is also Sarawak DAP chairman, said although the DAP was an opposition party, it would give its full support to Dr Mahathir.

In Kangar, the Perlis Umno liaison committee today denounced the action of the 34 Congressmen.

The decision was made after the committee met for an hour, its chairman and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said.

He said Perlis Umno believed the group's draft resolution was tantamount to meddling in the affairs of Malaysia.

"We've our full confidence in the Prime Minister who has been democratically elected," he told a Press conference.

In Malacca, about 50 members of the Parti Angkatan Keadilan Insan Malaysia performed hajat prayers at the State Al-Azim mosque last night in show of their support for Dr Mahathir and Anwar.

Akim Youth head Muhammad Mohd Din, regretting the action of the Congressmen, said the party supported Dr Mahathir.

"No foreigner has the right to meddle in the country's affairs nor ask

our leader to step down. The Congressmen are just too much."

Meanwhile, International Islamic University Malaysia Students' Council today expressed confidence in Dr Mahathir's leadership, saying he had developed Malaysia into a harmonious country.

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