

Samy: Punish Soros for 'economic treason'

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KUALA LUMPUR: International financier George Soros' call for the ouster of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad drew all-round condemnation from Malaysian leaders, and one minister suggested that the currency trader be punished for "economic treason" to the world.

However, the Prime Minister, when sought for his comments, said: "He (Soros) is entitled to his opinion."

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the world community must punish Soros for "economic treason" because "his past actions have destroyed

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nations' economies."

"Because of his selfish motives to enrich himself, he has chosen to destroy the economy of developing nations (and) for this he must be punished.

"Soros has completely deviated from the principles of non-interference of a citizen of one country in the affairs of another country. The day will come when he will be punished by the world."

He described Soros' remarks as an attempt to destroy the country politically.

"Soros' statement clearly indicates a long-term plan of his and

his parasites to destroy the democratically elected government of this country," said Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister.

On Thursday, Soros called for Dr Mahathir's ouster and the release of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is on trial for corruption.

Speaking at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, Soros alleged that the policies of the Prime Minister were aimed to keep him in office and benefit his political allies.

Negri Sembilan Mentri Besar Tan Sri Isa Samad described

Soros' call as an effort to topple an elected government and install one that can be "the puppet of foreign forces."

He said Soros was attempting to instigate the people to go against the Government.

"It is yet another effort to capitalise on a small group of people who go against the Government," he said yesterday.

He said Soros was merely interested in making more money from currency trading and did not care if millions of people suffered for it.

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Stay out of Malaysian affairs, Soros told

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Kelantan Mentri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said Soros should keep his mouth shut and not interfere in Malaysia's administrative matters.

"There is no need for him to comment on Malaysia in future," he said.

He said Malaysia did not need outside interference because its leaders were capable of administering the country properly.

Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin, who described Soros' call as ill-mannered, told the financier to help countries in turmoil caused by his speculative activities.

"Malaysians know what this group of people are up to. So far, their efforts have not been successful," he added.

Gerakan vice-president Dr Goh Cheng Teik described Soros' call as being "grossly indecent" and lacked respect for Malaysia as a sovereign state. "No matter how rich or powerful they are, they cannot tell us what to do or how to run our country."

Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu deputy president Datuk Abang Haji Johari Tun Openg said Soros' call for the removal of Dr Mahathir was unwarranted and uncalled for.