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Mohamed-Singapore

APPRECIATE M'SIA'S PROBLEMS, MOHAMED TELLS S'PORE AND MEDIA

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- Singapore and the republic's media have been urged to appreciate the problems Malaysia is facing and not capitalise on them to further discredit the country.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the continuous belittling of Malaysia by the republic and the media there ran contrary to the long-established cooperation and friendship between both countries.

"If Singapore reckons that its well-being depends on the region's prosperity, Singapore should continue contributing towards that end and not take advantage to exacerbate the situation especially by discrediting Malaysia for specific motive," he said here today.

Mohamed was asked to comment on wide-spread coverage daily by Singapore's print and electronic media of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim since his dismissal from the Cabinet on Sept 2 and expulsion from Umno, a day later.

The Television Corporation of Singapore (TCS) ran interviews with eminent Malaysian figures in its programmes relating to Anwar's sacking.

"From the reports that I receive, their intention is to discredit (prime minister Datuk Seri Dr) Mahathir (Mohamad) and support Anwar. I hope Anwar will be quickly charged in court so that all his supporters within and outside the country will eventually know who the real Anwar is. Perhaps by then they themselves will be embarrassed," he said.

Anwar, who led an illegal procession from the National Mosque in Kuala Lumpur last Sept 20, was arrested by police and is currently detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for threatening national security.

He has been implicated in at least two sexual offences when two men last Sept 19 confessed in court that they had allowed themselves to be sodomised by the ex-DPM, an offence under Section 377D of the Penal Code.

Mohamed also said a poll conducted in Johor by his ministry's Research Division showed that 70 per cent of the people endorsed Dr Mahathir's dismissal of Anwar.

The remaining 30 per cent who disapproved were largely youths ignorant of the need for a good government, he said.

Mohamed said such poll, which would be conducted nation-wide, was necessary for follow-up campaign to keep the public updated.

-- BERNAMA

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