

20 OCT 1998

Estrada-Protest

BN PRESENTS PROTEST MEMO TO PHILIPPINE ENVOY OVER ESTRADA'S INTERFERENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Some 200 people representing the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) today handed a protest memorandum expressing profound regret and disappointment against Philippine President Joseph Estrada for interfering in Malaysia's internal affairs with regards to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim issue.

Among others, the three-page memorandum also urges Estrada to apologise.

Titiwangsa Umno division deputy chief Abdullah Zain presented the memorandum to the Philippines' Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes at the Philippine Embassy in Jalan Changkat Kia Peng, here.

The memorandum was signed by representatives of Umno, MCA, MIC and Gerakan.

The memorandum states that although Estrada's comments on the treatment of Anwar since his arrest on Sept 20 were made in his personal capacity, they could be regarded as the official stand of the Philippine government.

Estrada had appealed to the Malaysian government for better treatment to Anwar whom he considered as his personal friend.

Anwar, who was sacked from the government on Sept 2 and from Umno a day later, was detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) on Sept 20 for involving in activities detrimental to national interests.

He has since been released from detention under the ISA and is now held at the Sungai Buloh prison pending his court case on Nov 2.

Estrada had asked the Malaysian government to release Anwar from prison and keep him under house arrest.

Earlier, Abdullah, accompanied by BN representatives gathered peacefully for about 45 minutes in front of the embassy to register their protest.

They carried banners expressing support for the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

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