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Lim-Estrada

ESTRADA AND HABIBIE "NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK" - KENG YAIK

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Gerakan regards the recent statements by Philippine President Joseph Estrada and President B.J. Habibie of Indonesia in defending Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as coming from "new kids on the block" who lacked experience as leaders.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said their statements clearly reflected their "shallow" experience in making statements on the domestic affairs of other countries.

Speaking to reporters after the party's Deepavali "open house" at Menara PGRM, here, he said Malaysia viewed seriously the statements by the two newly-elected presidents on Anwar which clearly interfered in Malaysia's internal matters.

" They seemed to be using Anwar's issue to hide the problems faced by their countries," he said.

Estrada and Habibie, in a joint statement issued recently, criticised the way the Malaysian government handled Anwar's issue. They regarded Anwar's detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA) as a violation of human rights.

The statements albeit regarded as their personal opinions, it is a vivid revelation that Estrada and Habibie did not have the experience to deal with international policies particularly refraining from meddling in the affairs of other countries, he said.

"How can a president or a head of state make statements on other countries in their capacity or at their whims as what they say will be regarded as the official stand," said Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister.

Estrada and Habibie should instead learn from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who has a wealth of experience in tackling international issues after leading Malaysia as Prime Minister for 17 years, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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