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Syed Hamid-Reform

EXPLAIN YOUR OBJECTIVES, REFORM MOVEMENT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar today asked supporters of the "reformasi" (reform) movement to announce their objectives before forming a political party and contesting in country's general election.

"I'm sure the people also want to know what are the objectives and real intention of this group which has been causing trouble in the country...is it to give place to outsiders or foreign conspirators?" he told reporters after presenting diplomas to 638 graduands of Institut Teknologi Tun Abdul Razak (ITTAR), here.

Syed Hamid, who is also Defence Minister, said if the group wanted to take part in politics, then they should operate in the open, not hiding behind so-called independent organisations or non-governmental organisations.

"This doesn't reflect their courage to face issues political in nature," he said.

As such, he called on "reformasi" supporters to show their true colours "so that we can take appropriate steps and actions like any other political parties in the country."

Yesterday, an activist of the "reformasi" movement Abdul Malek Hussin was reported to have said of the need for the movement to set up a political party which would be opened to all communities, consistent with its struggles.

Abdul Malek, who was released from detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA) on Nov 21 was responding to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's challenge to "reformasi" supporters to contest in the general election instead of taking part in street protests and causing trouble.

On the widespread sale of tapes of the Umno Supreme Council (MT) meeting on the night Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was sacked from the party, Syed Hamid said it was up to the people to make their own analysis.

"There's nothing to hide even though the minutes of the meeting are party's secret. If it's been leaked out, there's nothing we can do," he said.

He said he did not want to speculate how the recording of the meeting could be available to outsiders.

--BERNAMA

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