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Singapore-Anwar

S'PORE MEDIA EXPLOITING ANWAR ISSUE TO RUN DOWN MALAYSIA, SAYS GHANI

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- The print and electronics media in Singapore have exploited the issue of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sacking and detention and the recent pro-Anwar demonstrations to run down Malaysia, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said today.

He said that the republic's media, clearly sympathetic towards Anwar, were giving a biased picture of what had happened in Malaysia.

"We would like to know why they are doing this. Have they been looking for issues in Malaysia and finally found an issue to exploit," he told a news conference here.

Abdul Ghani said that the people in the country must realise that previously, currency speculators had played their role to put pressure on Malaysia and now an "Anwar network" had emerged, in Singapore, London or Washington, for exactly the same purpose.

"Singapore is going all out to run down Malaysia over every development regarding Anwar," he said.

Abdul Ghani said that the biased reports had affected investment opportunities especially in the property market, in Johor.

"I have received reports that there are Singaporeans interested to buy houses here but they want to know whether it is safe or not," he said.

The Menteri Besar said that media reports in the republic were proven to have negative repercussions and had affected investment opportunities.

He however said that the ups and downs in relations between the two countries were regarded as a normal phenomena.

Abdul Ghani also said the people should appreciate that the greatest assets of the country were racial harmony and the democratic system of government.

He also expressed regret over the incidents of rumour-mongering and libel now rampant on the Internet.

"The rumours being spread are just too much. They will continue to seek an issue to tarnish the image of the country and (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad). There will come a time when the Internet will no longer be credible," he said.

Abdul Ghani also welcomed the move to set up an independent special investigating team to probe allegations by Anwar that he had been assaulted while in detention.

-- BERNAMA

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