

01 DEC 1998

KADA FARMERS, FISHERMEN SLAM GORE FOR RUDE REMARKS

PASIR MAS, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Scores of farmers and fishermen staged a peaceful demonstration here last night condemning United States vice president Al Gore for his provocative remarks and interference in Malaysia's internal affairs.

They also displayed banners pledging support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership.

Their protest was held at the Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority (Kada) headquarters' compound in Lati as Kada chairman Tan Sri Hussein Ahmad was officiating at the close of the 1998 Kada livestock rearers and farmers' day celebrations.

Two of the banners carried the slogans "Dr Mahathir, kami para petani, penternak dan nelayan tetap bersamamu", (Dr Mahathir, we farmers and fishermen are with you) and "Al Gore the Satan pergi jahanam" (Damn you Al Gore the Satan).

At last month's Apec business summit dinner in Kuala Lumpur, Gore gave explicit support for the so-called movement for reform of former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and called Anwar's street demonstrators as the "brave people of Malaysia."

One Kada farmer, who declined to be identified by name, said last night's anti-Gore protest was one way for the 45,000 farming households in Kelantan to show their loyalty and patriotism.

Hussein said he would convey the farmer's pledge of support for Dr Mahathir when he meets the prime minister on Monday.

-- BERNAMA

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