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## Leaders condemn Soros' interference

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Several leaders today took to task currency trader George Soros who called for the removal of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. They have condemned it as another instance of foreign interference in Malaysia's internal affairs.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress president Zainal Rampak said George Soros had no business to interfere in Malaysia's internal affairs.

"Who is he? Is he a Malaysian citizen," he asked.

Zainal said Malaysians should "just ignore" Soros' comments.

"He is not the President or Prime Minister of any country. We should not give any heed to what he has to say," Zainal added.

Recalling a meeting with a Russian delegate at the International Labour Organisation headquarters in Geneva, Zainal said: "My Russian friend told me that while he was in a taxi in Moscow, the driver had told him that if he was to see Soros on the street, he would knock him down."

In Johor Baru, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Affifudin Omar said the actions of foreign agents were aimed at thwarting the country's economic recovery.

"In doing so these people and the countries they represent are going against the human rights issue that they are presently pursuing under their liberalisation policy.

"To be fair in the light of human rights, they should be giving a chance for our country's economic recovery which concerns the well-being of Malaysians on the whole," he told reporters after holding a discussion with Pulai Umno members here.

He said although Malaysia had not fully implemented its economic recovery policy, judgment was being passed on the policy by people like Soros, saying it was all wrong.

In Klang, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh called on Malaysians to stand united and ensure political stability so as to prevent enemies from within and outside to penetrate and dictate to the country.

He said if Malaysians were disunited, then it would be easy for outsiders to penetrate and tell the people what to do, including deciding who should be the leader of the country.

"We should not give room for this. We must be in control of our own country and make the decision as to who our leaders should be," he said when opening the new wing of the Klang and Coast Chik Sin Thong Old Folks Home today.

He said leaders in Malaysia were chosen through a democratic system and those like currency trader George Soros who called for the ouster of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should "go and fly kites".

In Shah Alam, the Selangor Government will table a motion against United States Vice-President Al Gore and currency trader George Soros for their interference in Malaysia's internal affairs on Tuesday during the State budget session.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the tabling of the motion was to show that the people of Selangor including Umno and Barisan Nasional leaders and members were unhappy with outsiders interfering in Malaysia's internal affairs.

"We do not want people like Soros to interfere in our political problems as much as he or Al Gore do not want Malaysians to interfere in their

affairs," he said.

In Ipoh, Malaysian 4B Youth Movement president Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam said Soros was kurang ajar (rude) and had no right to interfere in Malaysia's domestic affairs.

Commenting on Soros's call to oust Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Mohd Ali said Soros was belittling Malaysian democracy and that he wanted to demoralise the Malaysian people.

He said if Soros wanted to play politics he could do so by becoming a candidate in the US presidential election.

Mohd Ali also said the Youth Movement would be writing a letter to Soros to counter his statement and to condemn his actions in manipulating Asian currencies.

Speaking to reporters after flagging off participants at the Perak Le'Tour Adventure Rally 1998, Mohd Ali said the postcard campaign was part of the movement's Patriotic Malaysia Programme to declare its support for the Prime Minister and its love for peace, unity and racial harmony.

Mohd Ali added that 10,000 postcards had been printed and addressed to the Prime Minister's Department by the Malaysian 4B Youth Movement to declare its support for the Prime Minister and his leadership.

The postcards would be distributed to members of the movement and they would pen their support on the postcards before they were gathered and presented to Dr Mahathir.

He said on Dec 20, a brief ceremony to receive the postcards would be held at the Asian Youth Council premises at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre.

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