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Mahathir-Justice

LOOK AT YOURSELVES BEFORE ACCUSING MALAYSIA, SAYS MAHATHIR

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised those who tried to interfere in the country's administration when they themselves are not exemplary.

"This kind of people had the cheek to accuse us of being undemocratic. By right, they should look at themselves in the mirror because it will then show who is fair and who is not," the Prime Minister said.

He said these people resorted to accusing the government of being undemocratic out of frustration on seeing that their "friend" in the country suddenly could no longer be a leader because of other matters.

"So they came to Malaysia to criticise us for supposedly being undemocratic and the like. Actually, they were frustrated because the puppet they had cultivated and groomed to be a leader suddenly is no longer a leader," he said.

The actions of such people were inappropriate, he said when addressing some 5,000 people at a Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth gathering at the Likas Sports Complex here.

United States Vice-President Al Gore sparked an outrage when he described supporters of the anti-government reform movement as the "brave people of Malaysia" while addressing an Apec business dinner in Kuala Lumpur recently.

"Ours is an independent and sovereign country with integrity, and we ourselves will determine our fate...The country's development is our own responsibility and whether we succeed or not is our business.

"They themselves are not that efficient, not that they are free from corruption, they are also big cheats," he said.

The Prime Minister said these people had also alleged that the country's judicial process was not good, but when they themselves committed offences like "receiving money during elections", the prosecutor who is their friend decided not to proceed with investigations.

An AFP report yesterday said that US Attorney-General Janet Reno announced on Tuesday she will not open a special probe into whether Gore broke the law while raising funds for the 1996 election campaign.

"This is the type of people who had the audacity to come to our country and say that our system of justice is one-sided, when (what was happening in) their country clearly showed that if something happened to their friend, they will free that person of the charges," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that in Malaysia people alleged to have committed offences were charged in court even if they were leaders of the ruling party.

Meanwhile, Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok reaffirmed support for the economic recovery measures taken by the government, and slammed Gore for meddling in the country's affairs.

"We regret that there are foreign leaders who claim to champion a cause and openly pledge support for a handful of rioters in the federal capital.

"Fortunately, Malaysians have a tradition of loving peace, harmony and unity. Malaysia is lucky to have friendly people who hate violence," he said.

He was confident that the isolated demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur would not spread to Sabah although some people in the state were not thankful for the peace they are enjoying.

"As the chief executive of the Sabah government, I urge all Malaysians

in Sabah to prove that Malaysians are capable of facing any challenges," he said.

BN Youth acting chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the movement was determined to help the government tackle any challenges.

He said although most of the movement's members were born after independence, they were just as determined to oppose any effort to impose new forms of colonialism on the country.

-- BERNAMA

JS YBY