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Soros (reactions)

SOROS CONTINUES TO DRAW CRITICISMS FROM MALAYSIANS

IPOH, Dec 6 (Bernama) -- International financier George Soros today continued to draw criticisms from Malaysians for calling on Thursday for the ouster of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Among the latest to express their displeasure to the currency trader for his remarks was the Malaysian 4B Youth, Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) and Malaysian Malay Journalists Association (PWM).

4B Youth President Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam accused Soros of trying to get back at Dr Mahathir for exposing to the world "his dirty works".

"Soros feels cornered and so he gets get back at Dr Mahathir for exposing to the world his activities," he told reporters after flagging-off some 300 participants of the week-long Perak Le Tour Adventure Rally '98 to Kanchanaburi, Thailand, organised by Lumut 4B.

Mohamed Ali said clearly Soros and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore were together in interfering in the internal affairs of Malaysia.

Gore also came under fire when he express sympathy to the reform movement in his speech at the Asia-Pacific summit dinner in Kuala Lumpur last month.

Mohamed Ali warned Malaysians of an external force out to disrupt the country's social and political system to pave way for a new form of colonialism.

He said the Malaysian 4B Youth would send a letter to Soros, condemning his remarks against a patriotic leader like Dr Mahathir.

In PETALING JAYA, the 172-strong Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) also took Soros to task for his remarks.

Its president, Zainal Rampak said Soros had no rights to say who should and should not lead the country. "Who the hell is Soros? He's not a Malaysian and no rights to talk about Malaysia," he told reporters.

He said even the people in other countries including the governing members of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) did not like Soros.

"A friend of mine from Russia told me of an angry taxi driver who swore he would run him over if he saw Soros walking in Moscow," recalled Zainal.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the Malaysian Malay Journalists Association (PWM) president Yazid Othman said Soros had no basis to call for the ouster of Dr Mahathir who was elected by the people.

"There is no need to...it's our business and can only be resolved by our leaders," he said.

He said Soros should call for the resignation of President Bill Clinton for his sexual relations with a former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

In JOHOR BAHRU, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar accused Soros of trying to scare away potential investors as he did not want to see Malaysia succeeded in overcoming the economic crisis.

Speaking to reporters after a dialogue session organised by Pulai Umno Division, he said there was no need for Soros to interfere in Malaysia's political affairs as the people were capable of choosing a leader of their choice.

"Malaysia has its own unique way of overcoming the economic and political crisis. Give us a chance to prove it," he said.

He said that if Malaysia was successful, its approach could be adopted by other developing countries in overcoming the economic crisis.

In spite of foreign interference, he said the composite index of the

Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) continued to rise to 500 points and could reach 600 points in a week or two, reflecting investors' confidence in measures taken by the government.

In LANGKAWI, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said foreign representatives in the country should give a correct picture of Malaysia to their respective governments including democratic practices to avoid unfair criticisms.

"Malaysians are living in peace and there are no disturbances which could lead to problems," he told reporters after launching a French book reading festival at the Malaysian Book Village, Lubuk Semilang.

On Soros' remarks, Sanusi said that what Soros did to the Asian economies was as cruel as what Adolf Hitler did in Europe and like Hitler he would face the same fate.

In KOTA BAHARU, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said Pas might be an opposition party but it would not support any call from outsiders to topple the country leaders.

"It's an internal affairs. So outsiders shouldn't interfere. We know what to do," he told reporters after opening a seminar on the role of leaders and society in fighting social ills.

In KOTA KINABALU, Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said Soros had no right to demand for Dr Mahathir's removal because he was elected by the people through democratic elections.

"Individual calls coming from people like Soros, who has no respect for democracy, must be ignored. What he cares is his own interests," he told reporters, here.

He said Soros' remarks were tantamount to questioning the intelligence of the Malaysian people who elected Dr Mahathir to the high office.

Dompok was confident the people would continue to support Dr Mahathir's leadership in the wake of foreign interference in the country's administration.

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