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DPM: We will look into Ezam's admission

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth chief Mohamad Ezam Mohd Noor's admission of his involvement in smearing Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's name abroad will be looked into and action will be taken if the law has been contravened, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Abdullah, the Deputy Prime Minister, said: "If he has broken the law, action will be taken. Otherwise, we will treat it as purely politicking on his part."

Utusan Malaysia today reported that Ezam made a public admission of his involvement in disparaging the Prime Minister in the United States and Europe.

The report further said Ezam even challenged authorities to take action against him.

Abdullah, who is also Umno deputy president, told reporters after chairing the Umno management and disciplinary committee meeting here that police were investigating the matter.

"It is unbecoming for anyone to run down the country's leaders abroad. If it is politicking they want, do it at home," he said.

"If they have the support of the people and they win, they can form the government. Why do they have to beg for support from outside?"

Abdullah said Ezam's actions reflected Keadilan's weakness to the extent that it needed to seek external support.

Also present at the meeting were Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, both Umno vice-presidents, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

In Kuantan, the Senators Club has described as an act of economic sabotage the campaign against Malaysia by the Opposition in order to discourage foreign direct investment from coming into the country.

Its president Datuk Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman said today that what the Opposition was doing was tantamount to treason.

"They did this before the last general election to secure political support from neighbouring countries.

"They succeeded then, and now they are trying to embark on a new strategy to erode investors' confidence in Malaysia.

"We believe they have been successful as there is a decline in investors' interest in the country," he said.

Abdul Aziz said to check these activities, the club suggested that the Government take stern action against those involved, even to the extent of repossessing their travel documents.

However, a thorough investigation has to be carried out first to ascertain whether those involved have breached any of the country's laws.

"To us, it is economic sabotage and there should be no compromise in dealing with them," Abdul Aziz said.

Ezam was also quoted as saying that he was behind the campaign in the US, Keadilan president Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail in Australia, vice-president Tian Chua in South Korea while information chief Ruslan Kassim was given the responsibility to influence Malaysian students in the United Kingdom.

He had said the target groups included students, politicians and foreign investors.

He also claimed that he had succeeded in convincing US investors not to come to Malaysia on the grounds that the judicial system in this country

was being controlled by the politicians.

He said it was due to this that a recent trade mission to the US led by International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz had failed.

Najib said Ezam and his supporters were trying to put international pressure on the country's leaders and gain sympathy for their struggle.

Najib said it was wrong for anyone to travel the world, smearing their country's leaders.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin described the Opposition's smearing campaign as "unpatriotic".

He said it should not be involved in activities which could ruin the nation's image.

"Such action can scare away foreign investors and have adverse effect on the nation's economy."

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