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Hishammuddin-Ezam

HISHAMMUDDIN SLAMS EZAM FOR SMEARING PM'S NAME OVERSEAS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein has labelled Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth head Ezam Mohd Noor a traitor for his involvement in a movement to tarnish the Prime Minister's name overseas.

He said Ezam's action was most regrettable, particularly as it came from a young leader.

Hishammuddin said Ezam had earlier made sensational claims that he possessed boxes of official documents on irregularities in the government but until now he had not provided any evidence.

"My stand remains that Malaysians who go overseas to run down (our) government leaders are deemed traitors," he said when asked to comment on Ezam's public admission on his involvement in the movement to tarnish Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's name overseas.

Hishammuddin, who is Youth and Sports Minister, was speaking to reporters after launching the ninth Asian Climbing Sport Championship logo at his office here today.

Ezam, when speaking at a "Movement to Restore People's Rights" gathering near Alor Setar two days ago, admitted that he was involved in a movement to smear Dr Mahathir's image in the United States and Europe as was reported by a local newspaper today.

Hishammuddin said efforts to run down government leaders overseas were nothing new as such acts had been committed by the opposition before.

In his speech at Batu Tiga, Tandop, near Alor Setar, Ezam also challenged the government and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to charge him in any court in this country for his actions overseas.

Asked whether Umno Youth would take action against Ezam, Hishammuddin said, "We cannot stop him from making statements in the eyes of the world".

For example, we tried to prevent them from demonstrating but this matter was still disseminated via the Internet or foreign media, he said.

"I hope the people will judge Ezam's action. I leave it to the people, (to decide on) the action that should be taken," Hishammuddin said.

-- BERNAMA

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