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Isa-Ezam

ISA DESCRIBES EZAM'S SMEAR CAMPAIGN A MORONIC PURSUIT

SEREMBAN, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- "It's a plain moronic pursuit," that is how Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad described Keadilan Youth chief Ezam Mohamed Nor's smear campaign against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the United States and Europe.

Isa said he could furnish statistics to prove the futility of Ezam's campaign if it was aimed at blocking the flow of foreign direct investments, at least in so far as Negeri Sembilan was concerned.

"And I don't see any effects at all of his campaign as Negeri Sembilan alone received investment totalling RM1.14 billion this year up to August.

" Foreign investments made up RM925.5 million of the amount including RM831 million from the United States. The rest came from Switzerland, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Indonesia," he said reacting to Ezam's reported admission to spearheading such smear campaign.

A report in Singapore's Straits Times newspaper today said supporters of jailed former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim have engaged a Washington-based lobby firm to apply economic pressure on Malaysia, among other things.

Ezam, Anwar's former political secretary, had confirmed having discussions with aides to powerful US Republican senator Jesse Helms recently, the newspaper said.

The report said Anwar's supporters would employ a new strategy to force his release from prison through economic pressure.

"What Ezam is doing is nothing more than trying to show off that Keadilan leaders too have ties with foreign leaders," Isa added.

-- BERNAMA

RP RYN