

02/11/2000

`Those who pay foreigners to destroy nation are traitors'

BANGI, Wed. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that those who paid foreigners to destroy Malaysia were traitors and should live abroad.

The Prime Minister said they should run to the countries from which they had sought help and live there under foreigners' rule.

"They will be considered as sampah masyarakat (scum of society) and not as citizens because they have a different skin colour.

"But they are not ashamed to ask our former colonial masters to oppress us again. I am ashamed that there are Malays like that," he said when launching the publicity campaign for the local plans of the Multimedia Super Corridor.

Despite such people, Malaysia will continue to be free as it refuses to be ruled by foreigners. It will progress into a developed nation.

Dr Mahathir did not name anyone but Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth chief Ezam Mohd Noor has recently come under fire for his anti-Government activities abroad.

Last week, the Singapore Straits Times reported that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's supporters had engaged a Washington-based lobby firm, Janus Merritt Strategy, to lobby for economic pressure on Malaysia.

While denying involvement, Ezam said Anwar's friends had engaged the firm.

Speaking to reporters today, Dr Mahathir said it was bad enough that Ezam had run down his own country abroad but now, he was asking foreigners to destroy it.

"He had asked them to take legal action to destroy our economy by applying sanctions so that there would be no investments here.

"What kind of human being is that?" he said, adding that sanctions would not hit the leaders, it would hit the poor and ordinary people.

Asked if any action would be taken against Ezam, he said the Government had to study the law to see what it was permitted to do.

"I don't care what he calls me, I know what I am. But to undermine the country, that is something that we cannot accept."

He said the Government could not accept it and hoped the people would also reject a person who tried to destroy his own country "just because he didn't get something for himself".

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the decline of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange's composite index.

He said Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin had already predicted that the KLCI would rise before the Budget but fall after it was tabled.

(END)