

14 JUN 2001

Council-Mahathir

COUNCIL WANTS MAHATHIR TO REMAIN AS FINANCE MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 (Berama) -- The newly-formed Malaysian Islamic Economic Council today called on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to continue holding the posts of finance minister and prime minister.

Its chairman, senator Datuk Haji Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman said Dr Mahathir must continue to head the Finance Ministry, especially to ensure continuity in the implementation of the Third Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3) and the Eighth Malaysia Plan (8MP).

"Dr Mahathir needs only to appoint a second finance minister to help him run the Finance Ministry," he told a media conference here.

Dr Mahathir took over the post of finance minister following Tun Daim Zainuddin's resignation on June 1.

Abdul Aziz said Dr Mahathir's influence and charisma as prime minister and finance minister were also needed to unite the people of the Islamic economies in the world to counter the threats of globalisation.

"The Malaysian Islamic Economic Council has resolved that as long as the issues on the economic status of the Muslims are not settled, we urge, pressure and propose that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad continue to hold the posts of Malaysian Finance Minister and Prime Minister," he told a news conference, here.

The council, established yesterday, is a strategic alliance of six bodies comprising the Malaysian Muslim Professionals Congress, Youth Economic Development Foundation, Malaysian Islamic Students Foundation, Women's Foundation, Islamic Entrepreneurs Foundation and the Legal Studies Institute.

Abdul Aziz, who is also chairman of the Islamic Entrepreneurs Foundation, said the council would officially present its request to Dr Mahathir before June 18 and urged other bodies to make similar calls to the prime minister.

"We also urge the delegates to the forthcoming Umno general assembly to table a special motion and pass a resolution calling on Dr Mahathir to remain as finance minister," he said.

He said the council which aimed, among others, to generate creative and innovative ideas to raise the economic status of the Muslims in a multiracial society, was preparing a blueprint for several pioneer projects in the country.

Other Islamic organisations interested in joining the council can contact the Islamic Entrepreneurs Foundation at No.14, Jalan Wangsa Setia 4, Wangsa Melawati, 53300 Setapak, tel: 41436916, fax: 41436351, URL: <http://www.leadersguide.com>.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AHH JK