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Parliament-Iraq (Youth)

UMNO, PAS YOUTH TO ORGANISE JOINT PROGRAMMES TO CONDEMN IRAQ ATTACK

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth and PAS Youth today agreed to jointly organise programmes to voice the strong opposition of Malaysians over the attack on Iraq by the United States and its allies.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the first joint effort by the two movements was to send a protest note to the US Embassy here tomorrow.

"A meeting has been arranged with the embassy. I and PAS Youth chief Mahfuz (Omar) and friends from other non-governmental organisations will present the voice of Malaysians regardless of race, religion and political ideology," he told a joint media conference at Parliament lobby.

He said the protest note was to tell the US Government that its action and that of its allies on Iraq did not receive the support and blessings of the international community.

"Our stand is clear to condemn and criticise in the strongest terms possible the invasion of Iraq by the US and its allies.

"We are thinking how to further project our joint stand apart from organising protests programmes which we will draw up together," he said.

He said the meeting with US Ambassador to Malaysia Marie T. Huhtala is scheduled to be held after 1pm.

Hishammuddin and Mahfuz said they would invite other political parties to join in the protest march to the embassy.

Hishammuddin said he was touched by PAS' support and with that the two parties could move in one voice to put forth Malaysian people's stand.

Mahfuz said the war issue was a normal issue that touched on the values of the global humanity values which must be supported by all groups as stated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"In this issue, we hope the opposition will not be merely in the form of meeting but must be translated into practical action," he said.

Mahfuz said the opposition would be more practical if efforts were made to instil awareness among Malaysians to change their lifestyle by shedding the influence of American lifestyle.

He said the international community must boycott American economic interests and this should be seen from the aspect of the purchasing power the international community had.

It is hoped that Malaysia as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) could lobby with major powers which opposed the Iraq war like Germany and China to bring the US and its allies before the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Netherlands for judgment.

On the Peace Malaysia campaign, Hishammuddin said it was not an Umno's initiative but a Malaysian people's campaign and that any political party could participate in the programmes.

-- BERNAMA

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