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U.S. HOUSE OF REPS PASSES RESOLUTION, REPUDIATING DR MAHATHIR'S REMARKS

By: Salmy Hashim

WASHINGTON, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- The United States House of Representatives has passed a resolution repudiating the recent anti-Semitic remarks by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) leaders summit in Putrajaya.

The resolution passed on Thursday night, co-sponsored and introduced on Oct 21 by four members of the house, is non-binding, but it records the sense of congressional members regarding the Dr Mahathir's controversial remarks about Jews.

A Senate resolution was passed on Oct 17 which called on the president of the U.S. to condemn the anti-Semitic sentiments expressed by the Malaysia's fourth prime minister, who retired Friday, in a speech delivered at the 57th OIC leaders' summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was sworn in today as Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister, taking over from Dr Mahathir, who has helmed the nation for 22 years.

The house's resolution, almost similar in content with the senate version, notes that Dr Mahathir "has become notorious over the years for his overt anti-semitism and opposition to the State of Israel."

It notes that the rhetoric, characterising Jews as the "enemy" who "rule the world by proxy" is neither "excused nor rationalised" and that Dr Mahathir's remarks are despicable and could serve to incite further sectarian violence."

The resolution calls upon other governments and international bodies, notably the European Union to "condemn these remarks as dangerous incitement."

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