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PORT KLANG, AUG 19 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO YOUTH LEADER ANWAR IBRAHIM TODAY DESCRIBED AS UNTRUE AND BASELESS A NEWSPAPER REPORT WHICH HINTED THAT PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WOULD RESIGN SOON. (P)

ENCIK ANWAR SAID THAT SUCH RUMOURS WERE BEING SPREAD BY THOSE WISHING TO UNDERMINE THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT.

+I BELIEVE THE RUMOURS WERE SPREAD BY THOSE WHO WERE DISAPPOINTED THE BN DIDN'T LOSE THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION,+ HE SAID.

+THEY ARE UNHAPPY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE CONTINUED TO VOTE FOR THE BN, REFLECTING THE PEOPLE'S BELIEF IN ITS POLICIES,+ ENCIK ANWAR, WHO IS EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS AFTER A CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE WORKERS' INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HERE.

AN UNSOURCED STORY IN A CHINESE NEWSPAPER ON SUNDAY SAID RUMOURS WERE RIFE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S TOP LEADER, REFERRING TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WOULD RESIGN THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE REPORT ALSO SAID CERTAIN QUARTERS HAD PLACED BETS OF THOUSANDS OF RINGGIT ON WHETHER THE NEWS WAS TRUE OR NOT. -- MORE
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ENCIK ANWAR SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE RUMOURS AND HAD DESCRIBED THEM AS BASELESS AND UNIMPORTANT AND HAD NO EFFECT ON HIM.

ENCIK ANWAR SAID SINCE THE BN HAD REGISTERED SUCH A BIG WIN IN THE ELECTION, WHICH WAS PROOF OF THE PEOPLE'S ACCEPTANCE OF ITS POLICIES, IT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL FOR DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TO RESIGN.

IF THE PEOPLE ACCEPTED THE BN GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO RESIGN, OR TO HARBOUR ANY INTENTION OF DOING SO, HE SAID.

ENCIK ANWAR BELIEVED THE RUMOURS WERE CREATED BY THOSE GREEDY FOR POWER AND DISAPPOINTED WITH THE BN'S ELECTORAL VICTORY AND WERE AIMED AT ERODING THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE BN LEADERSHIP.

HE SAID THAT BEFORE THE ELECTION, THESE GROUPS HAD SPREAD PROPAGANDA THAT THE BN WOULD DO BADLY. -- BERNAMA
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