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Anwar-touched

ANWAR TOUCHED BY DR MAHATHIR'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM

By: Wan Hulaimi

LONDON, July 7 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for expressing confidence in him and said he was touched by what the Prime Minister said yesterday.

The Prime Minister had said that Anwar would succeed him when he stepped down.

"I have no intention at all to replace the Umno deputy president or deny him the chance to succeed me when I retire," Dr Mahathir had said.

Dr Mahathir had also said: "My relationship with Anwar is very good in fact it is the best."

The Prime Minister had also said that the return of Tengku Razaleigh to Umno had nothing to do with the question of succession.

Dr Mahathir had said that he wished to state categorically that there was no truth in the suggestion that he wanted Razaleigh, who is Parti Melayu Semangat 46 President, back in Umno to check Anwar's influence.

Anwar hoped that the Prime Minister's statement would wipe away the "uneasiness" that was fermented by the foreign media over their relationship.

"I also hope that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement would nail all speculation and everyone would now concentrate on national economic development," he said after a meeting with heads of Islamic bodies in England.

Anwar hoped that Umno members would continue to give their solid support to Dr Mahathir in leading the party and the nation.

Asked why there were still groups which questioned his state of relations with Dr Mahathir, Anwar said they were bent on this due to jealousy, greed for power..it is a pity for they tried to strain our close ties."

Anwar said Dr Mahathir himself had said that there were certain groups which had their own agenda.

The Deputy Prime Minister said he could never forget Dr Mahathir's good deeds and would always love him.

On the ban on campaigning for Umno posts, Anwar said it was a good decision.

He later left for Dublin for talks with Irish leaders. -- BERNAMA

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