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Mahathir-Successor

ANWAR IS MY SUCCESSOR, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reiterated today that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will succeed him as Prime Minister and Umno president when the time comes.

He said he had denied many times that there were misunderstanding between them to the extent of jeopardising Anwar's position in the party and government.

" There are allegations that I'm not in good terms with him, have disagreements with him, all sorts of stories are coming out. Even though I deny, my denials have been ignored,

" But I hope all will understand that he is still my deputy and my successor," he said when winding up the debate at the Umno General Assembly which ended here today.

Dr Mahathir also said he did not want factions in Umno as it would weaken the party.

" We don't want to see factions between the president and his deputy so much so when the president retires, his deputy gets only half of Umno. Supporters of the retired president refuse to support the successor," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was reiterating his statement so that there would be no more stories that Anwar had resigned as was rumoured lately.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the tests which Anwar encountered lately like poison-pen letters and rumour-mongering were important elements which could mould him into a credible leader.

He said Anwar's ability to face the issues would certainly mould him into a stronger person to deal with more serious challenges in future.

" I think Anwar will become a capable prime minister in future," he told reporters after the assembly. -- BERNAMA

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