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#### Anwar supports Saleh's appointment

Mona Fairuz Nordin; Kasmiah Mustapha

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has given full support to the appointment of Datuk Mohd Saleh Sulong as DRB-Hicom group chairman to replace Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad who died in a helicopter crash on Monday.

"I am confident he can manage (DRB-Hicom) satisfactorily," he told reporters after paying a courtesy call on South African President Nelson Mandela today.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, said Saleh had been with the late Yahaya for 18 years and the experience he had gained would enable him to manage the companies under the DRB-Hicom group.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who endorsed the appointment, also recommended to the Minister of Finance Incorporated that Saleh be appointed chairman and president of Hicom Holdings Bhd, in which it is a special shareholder.

Anwar said there would be no change in the equity structure held by the Government in the group.

Saleh was also appointed chairman of Edaran Otomobil Nasional Bhd, Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd, Diversified Resources Bhd, Gadek Capital Bhd, Gadek (M) Bhd and Kedah Cement Holdings Bhd.

A day after Yahaya died, the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange suspended nine companies linked to him. The nine - Hicom Holdings, Diversified Resources, Gadek (M), Gadek Capital, Golden Pharos Bhd, Proton, EON, Kedah Cement and Eastern Pacific Industrial Corporation Bhd - will resume trading on Monday.

Anwar said the Government would continue to support the group "in whatever way we can".

On his talks with Mandela, he said it was a follow-up to that between the South African leader and Dr Mahathir yesterday.

Saleh, in an interview later today, said Dr Mahathir would meet with the senior management of the DRB-Hicom Group on Tuesday.

"I am extremely grateful to the Government for its support to the group."

He said the Government's confidence in DRB-Hicom clearly showed it wanted continuity in the group.

"Whatever plans, policies and agendas we had before Tan Sri Yahaya's death will be continued."

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