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Leaders urged to give full support to Ghani

JOHOR BARU, Wed. - Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim tonight called on Johor Umno leaders to give their undivided support to the new State Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

The Umno deputy president said such support was necessary to ensure State party and Government programmes were effectively implemented.

Ghani was recently named the State Umno chief by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. He replaced Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Anwar, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, made the call during a meeting with State Umno leaders at a hotel here before leaving for Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, he said it was a normal meeting which focused mainly on development and economic issues in Johor. Social problems in the State were also discussed.

He said these issues should be handled resourcefully by the State Umno leadership.

On social problems, Anwar said they could be better managed if Umno's machinery at the grassroots was fully mobilised.

He said this could be done by instilling among members the spirit of the party's struggles through effective dissemination of information and education campaigns.

"Umno has a role because the machinery at the grassroots is manned by the Malays. Many social problems are also involve the Malays," he added.

Among those present at tonight's meeting were Ghani, Muhyiddin and Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Hishamuddin Tun Hussein.

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