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Youth-Mahathir

PM ALSO WANTS SUPPORT FOR ANWAR, SAYS UMNO YOUTH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today told Umno Youth leaders that the people's support for him must also go to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister so that there would not be attempts to pitch them against each other.

Umno Youth leader Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who led the Youth executive committee members to meet Dr Mahathir to express their support for him today, said the prime minister was concerned that foreign media reports pitting them against each other would achieve their aims if the people did not also express support for Anwar.

"The prime minister does not want any group supporting him and not supporting the deputy prime minister," he told a news conference at Parliament House, here, today.

At the meeting with Dr Mahathir at Sri Perdana, here, Umno Youth submitted a memorandum expressing support for Dr Mahathir's continued leadership.

"The prime minister feared that foreign media reports painting a picture of Anwar as not being on the same course as him would influence the people to support only the prime minister or the deputy prime minister," he said.

He said that should this occur, the foreign media would achieve their aims of creating chaos among the country's leadership.

Ahmad Zahid said the prime minister also asked the local media not to follow the foreign media by using their reports for broadcast or publication, or as material for analysis.

Dr Mahathir hoped that the local media would be more positive and responsible in their reports as the people read their reports and form conclusions from them, he added. -- BERNAMA

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