

DAP and NGOs

urge
PM to

reveal
reasons

PETALING JAYA: The DAP and some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to make public his reasons for sacking his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister owed Malaysians an explanation for the sacking, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said in a press statement last night.

Aliran president P. Kamakrishnan said Malaysians deserved an explanation on "why such a drastic action is necessary."

Tian Chua, spokesman for Suaram, said the sacking showed that a rift did exist between Dr Mahathir and Anwar despite their denials.

International Movement for a Just World president Prof Chandra Muzaffar said: "While we recognise it is the Prime Minister's right to dismiss any member of his Cabinet, the person he has sacked is the deputy prime minister by virtue of his position as Umno deputy president."

He said he was shocked by the announcement even though rumours had been rife before this.

The Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement (Abim) described Anwar's removal as shocking, especially at a time when the country was facing an economic crisis and everybody should be united.

"It is the Prime Minister's right to dismiss Anwar. And we will wait for his official reason," said its president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman.

"This is the first time a deputy prime minister has been sacked," said Penang DAP chairman Karpal Singh.

"I hope he was given a chance to reply to any allegations made against him," he said in a telephone interview last night..

"The Government should ensure that the security of the nation is kept under control under any circumstance," he added.

PAS deputy president Hadi Awang said Anwar's departure had been predicted.

"We are not surprised by the sacking because rumours about this have been around for some time," he said when contacted at his home in Kuala Terengganu.