

MPS BACK PM

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All Umno backbenchers support Dr M over Anwar's expulsion

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KUALA LUMPUR: All Umno backbenchers have rallied behind party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad over the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the Government and party.

The Umno Members of Parliament Group, representing all 52 MPs from the peninsula and Sabah, decided by consensus yesterday that Dr Mahathir, as the Prime Minister, had given serious thought, based on concrete evidence, before deciding to sack Anwar.

(The other 43 Umno MPs (minus Anwar) comprise Cabinet Ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries.)

Group president Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis said the group fully supported Dr Mahathir's decision and believed that the actions were in the interest of the religion, race and nation.

"As the Prime Minister is a visionary and experienced leader, surely these qualities have helped him to make such a decision.

"Many of the Prime Minister's decisions and actions all this while have been proven right and successful. Although some of his decisions and actions had been questioned, they were finally proven to be right, sharp and accurate.

"All the concerns about (his decisions) have been proven unfounded. For example, the world is now acknowledging that the Prime Minister was right in condemning currency speculators," he told a press conference at Parliament House.

He said another example of Dr Mahathir's wisdom was the appointment of Tun Daim Zainuddin as Special Functions Minister, which was earlier questioned, but had shown to be a wise decision in helping to revive the economy.

Thus, Jamaluddin said the decision to sack Anwar was the right move to "protect the good name and image of the party."

He also called on Malaysians to remain calm and stand behind the country's leadership in facing the current situation.

Jamaluddin said the meeting was attended by 23 MPs, explaining that the others could not attend as some were chairing Umno division meetings.

"We have contacted all our members by telephone and through their state representatives. All of those

Group's stand gets full support from MPs

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whom we contacted asked us to convey their stand.

“Until now, none of the MPs had contacted us to say that they did not support the decision,” he said.

Those who attended the meeting were **Backbenchers Club** president **Ruhanie Ahmad**, who is **Parit Sulong MP**, **Datuk Sukri Mohamed** (Machang); **Muhammad Abdullah** (Pasar Putih); **Noh Omar** (Tanjung Karang); **Mohd Khaled Nordin** (Johor Baru); **Datuk Zihin Hassan** (Larut); **Abdul Hamid Abdul Rahman** (Sungai Benut);

Datuk Zakaria Said (Kuala Kedah); **Datuk Dr Kamal Salih** (Wangsa Maju); **Zainuddin Mat Nor** (Pasar Mas); **Ibrahim Pateh Mohamed** (Tanah Merah); **Che Ibrahim Mustafa** (Sungai Petani); **Jamaluddin Adnan** (Kuala Selangor);

Seripah Noli Syed Husin (Sepang); **Amirhamzah Ahmad** (Lipis); **Md Isa Sabu** (Kangar); **Datuk Badruddin Amiruddin** (Yan); **Abdul Rahin Mohd Said** (Kuala Nerus); **Datuk Abu Zahar Nika Ujang** (Kuala Pilah); **Datuk Hanafi Ramli** (Jerlun); **Badrul Hisham Abdul Aziz** (Hulu Langat); and **Datuk Wan Hanafiah Mat Saman** (Pokok Sena), who is also the group's secretary.

There were no representatives from Penang, Malacca and Sabah at the meeting but they had expressed support for the stand made by the group, said Jamaluddin.