

Negri Youth: Ruslan's views on dismissal are his own ²⁴

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SEREMBAN: Six out of seven Negri Sembilan Umno Youth division chiefs have distanced themselves from the support pledged by their state chief Ruslan Kassim for sacked deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Kuala Pilah Youth division went one step further by calling for Ruslan's resignation if he could not accept the decision to sack Anwar.

Division Youth chief Ismail Lasim said the division had made the call after an emergency meeting last night.

"If Ruslan is unable to state his stand in support of the action of party leaders in the sacking of Anwar, he should then hand in his resignation as well," he said.

Ismail said the division, at the emergency meet-

ing, had pledged support for party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in sacking Anwar from the party and his government positions.

Ismail said the division had also called for the resignation of Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi if he refused to state his stand on the sacking of Anwar.

Five other division chiefs described Ruslan's support for Anwar as his "personal stand," on which they had not been consulted at all.

There are seven divisions in the state and Ruslan is the Youth chief for Jempol division.

Rasah division Youth chief Hasim Rusdi said the support for Anwar was Ruslan's personal view.

"It is not the stand of the Negri Sembilan Youth," he said.

Hasim said Ruslan did

not call for a state Youth meeting to discuss the sacking of Anwar.

He added that Rasah Youth had called for a meeting two nights ago to discuss the sacking of Anwar and they had pledged support for the party president Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad's decision.

Seremban division Youth chief Othman Mohammad said his division had met on Sunday night and had pledged support for the supreme council's decision.

"We had not been consulted at all on the matter and any statement from the state Youth should be by consensus with all division Youth chiefs," he said.

His sentiments were echoed by Teluk Kemang division Youth Shahrul Akram Osman and Jebebu Youth chief Amrus Ibrahim.