

# Hishammuddin: Members <sup>14</sup> must rally behind party chief <sup>3 9-9-98</sup>

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth deputy chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said yesterday party members should rally behind Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad following the Prime Minister's explanation for dismissing Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said he backed Dr Mahathir's decision to remove Anwar from all posts in the Government and the party which was for the good of Umno and the nation.

"I will personally defend Dr Mahathir's actions and that of the

Umno supreme council (to expel Anwar) to the end," he said after Dr Mahathir's explanation to Umno grassroots leaders yesterday at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Hishammuddin said a special exco meeting of Umno Youth would be held tomorrow at the request of Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi to discuss the issue.

Zahid was not present at yesterday's session.

Supreme council member Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar said the standing ovation Dr Mahathir received at the end of his

speech was proof that members were satisfied with the explanation.

"Like he (Dr Mahathir) said, it is time to put the interest of the party above all else.

"I believe today's (yesterday's) meeting should bring members closer together, a time to close ranks," he said.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Dr Mahathir's explanation was comprehensive.

He said it was now time to explain to members so that there would be less uncertainty among them.