

11 NOV 1998

APEC-NEWS-ABAC

ABAC TO CONCENTRATE ON GETTING GOOD RESULTS

By: Tan Hock Guan

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Getting good results from the Apec meeting and Apec business summit is what delegates will be aiming for instead of indulging in small talk on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's case.

Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac) advisor Tan Sri Razali Ismail said the Apec and Abac meetings would be worthwhile efforts if something positive could be extricated.

Despite events in the country, the Malaysian delegation very much wanted important decisions from heads of delegations to the meetings, he told reporters here today.

Malaysia, as current chair of Apec - the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum - will host the sixth Apec Economic Leaders meeting on Nov 17 and 18 and the 10th Apec Ministerial Meeting on Nov 14 and 15.

Abac, in conjunction with the Apec meeting, will hold a three-day Apec Business Summit beginning Nov 14 where some 1,000 chief executive officers from the Apec member economies will be attending.

Razali, who is an advisor to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said the issue of Anwar, who was removed as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept 2, is already the talk on the sidelines.

"Some countries have reacted more than others and there is nothing much that can be done to change that," he said.

On Anwar's claim of a conspiracy in his ouster, Razali said Anwar made the allegation because he was fighting for his political survival.

He said the Prime Minister had already said that it was not political or economic issues but the moral misconduct of Anwar that led to his sacking.

"Some people may agree with that and there are some who will not," he said.

On concerns of possible unrest during the meetings, Razali said the government can handle the situation.

He said people coming to Malaysia should not get the notion that the situation is deteriorating.

-- BERNAMA

THG YBY