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ABDULLAH SUPPORTS MAHATHIR'S DECISION TO SACK ANWAR

By: E.Sivalan

DURBAN, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he hoped the people would accept and support Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's move to sack Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

Abdullah, who is also Umno vice-president, said Wednesday the prime minister had the prerogative to appoint or sack any member of his cabinet.

"I believe the prime minister has given the matter considerable thought before sacking Anwar, he told a news conference, here, where he is representing the prime minister at the Non-Aligned Movement Summit.

On the political impact of Anwar's dismissal, Abdullah said: "I believe that if the people know the reasons, they will understand."

Abdullah also hoped that all Umno members would understand and support Dr Mahathir on the matter.

He believed that Anwar's position as Umno deputy president would be discussed at the party's supreme council meeting Thursday.

-- BERNAMA

ES JK