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Anwar-Barisan Nasional

ANWAR'S REMOVAL WILL NOT AFFECT BARISAN NASIONAL- SEC-GEN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's removal as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance will not affect the Barisan Nasional's solidarity, BN secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said today.

"The dismissal will not have an adverse effect on the BN and I believe that BN component parties will understand and accept the decision taken by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also BN Chairman," he said.

"The BN has faced various trials and challenges in the past and from my experience they have not affected the BN solidarity," the Information Minister said at Angkasapuri after witnessing the signing of an agreement naming RTM as the host broadcaster of the 16th Commonwealth Games.

For instance when Tan Sri Musa Hitam resigned as Deputy Prime Minister it did not in the least affect the party, he said.

"What is important now is for all component parties and party members to remain united and support the government as unity is vital now to enable Malaysia to face both internal and external challenges," he said.

Mohamed said the BN strength depended on unity and expressed the hope that such unity would prevail even when shocking events occurred.

He also appealed to the people to remain calm in facing this issue.

"We should wait for further explanation (from the government) on the action taken (against Anwar)...surely there must be strong reasons for such an action...hence be patient," he said.

On whether the BN would hold a meeting to explain the action, Mohamed said till now he had yet to receive any directive to that effect.

Mohamed said he would ask Dr Mahathir after the Umno Supreme Council meeting tonight whether the BN should hold a meeting on the issue.

-- BERNAMA

AKT AAM