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Mahahtir-Sacking

ANWAR'S SACKING WILL NOT CAUSE DISORDER, SAYS PM

BANGI, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance will not cause disorder in the country.

"No, I don't think so. The fact that we can see our share market rising... and generally, Malaysians are more disciplined, we do not expect that kind of problem," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he did not think the people would want a leader "of such low moral, who got involved in activities of which a leader at such level would not want to be associated with".

Speaking to newsmen after opening the general assembly of the Commonwealth Association of Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) here, Dr Mahathir who is also Umno President, said Anwar was trying his best to force the the authorities to arrest him so that he could become a martyr.

By arresting him, Dr Mahathir said the foreign media would publish "all kind of things about this authoritarian government of Malaysia."

Dr Mahathir said there would be no restrictions on Anwar's movement.

On Anwar's plan to go on a "road-show" apparently to clear his name of all charges, Dr Mahathir said there was no need for him to do that.

"Why the need for roadshow. I don't know why, it's his business. We took action against him because of his personal problems, the problem of loose morals.

"But he tries to draw people's attention to his personal problem, to allegations against him purportedly in defence of reformation," he said.

The Prime Minister said the reformation movement (championed by Anwar) was nothing but a design to hoodwink the people.

Dr Mahathir also said that those who used university students to what they claimed as seeking justice for them were actually "almost bankrupt".

"You can bring students and ask them to do quite a lot of things but not the public. People must be ready to support voluntarily.

"When you go and pick up university students to support you to lend moral courage to you, then I think you are almost bankrupt," he said.

On the involvement of several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Anwar's reformation movement, Dr Mahathir said: "That's what NGOs are doing."

He also hit out at foreign media for making wild assumptions even after hearing explanation regarding Anwar's dismissal.

He said the foreign media was controlled by the people who were running it "and they have never said one good word about Malaysia."

Dr Mahathir said the foreign media had refused to publish any stories when the local stock market did well after the introduction of several economic measures recently.

The Prime Minister said apparently the foreign media spoke highly of the quality of the former deputy prime minister because "he seems to conform to what you want him to do."

"We can never satisfy the foreign press because you have your own agenda and your agenda is that Malaysians are no good people and Malaysia is a very bad place," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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