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Backbenchers urge rakyat to fully back leadership in all issues

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Members of the Backbenchers' Club today urged Malaysians to give their undivided support to the leadership in handling all controversial issues with fairness.

Its president Ruhanie Ahmad said BBC had always supported the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and as such appreciated the wisdom of Dr Mahathir's decision to expel Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the Cabinet and Umno.

"We are confident with the decision taken by Dr Mahathir and that it (the decision) was made based on the wisdom and interest of religion, race and country," he told a Press conference at Parliament house after chairing the BBC pre-council meeting.

Ruhanie, who is Parit Sulong MP, said the decision was unanimous and that members who could not attend the meeting due to other commitments had written in to express their support.

"We have decided to collectively pledge our full confidence for Dr Mahathir and support all decisions, actions, strategies and policies of the Barisan Nasional to revive the economy," he said.

He said the BBC would meet Dr Mahathir tomorrow to express its support and discuss its role in explaining to the people the reasons for the dismissal.

The BBC groups together 91 BN MPs. About 50 of them turned up for the meeting.

The Umno Members of Parliament Group and the Malaysian Senators' Club had earlier expressed their support for the decision to remove Anwar as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, and as Umno deputy president.

Asked about his appearance at Anwar's house, Ruhanie said he was there twice in his personal capacity as a friend.

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