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Anwar-Backbenchers

BARISAN NASIONAL MPs TO EXPLAIN ANWAR SACKING TO PEOPLE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional Members of Parliament will explain the real issues behind the removal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the Government and Umno to their respective constituents.

President of the government Backbenchers Club (BBC) Ruhanie Ahmad said today such explanations were very important to erase any lingering doubts and confusion among the people over the issue of Anwar's sacking.

"We feel that we have a responsibility to help the government explain the this matter to the people clearly so that they will not be influenced by elements out to confuse them," he told reporters after attending a meeting along with other BN MPs with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department here.

At the meeting attended by 75 of the 92 members of the BN backbenchers club, they expressed solid support for Dr Mahathir in facing the political situation following the sacking of Anwar, he said.

Dr Mahathir sacked Anwar as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on moral grounds on Sept 2 and the Umno Supreme Council expelled him from the party a day later.

Ruhanie said that during the meeting, Dr Mahathir took 40 minutes to give a detailed explanation on the sacking of Anwar and also answered questions from the backbenchers.

Ruhanie said Barisan Nasional MPs who were not present at today's meeting had prior commitments but all of them had expressed their support to the Prime Minister.

The issue over the Anwar-sacking would be explained at meet-the-people sessions in parliamentary constituencies represented by the Barisan Nasional, he said.

Meanwhile president of the Umno Backbenchers Club Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis, who was also at the news conference, said the issue had to be explained to the people so that they could differentiate "between Anwar's personal issues and other issues."

"We are now afraid that the people will be confused over the present issue... as the issue is not one of safeguarding the welfare of the people, is not an issue of leading the people but an issue revolving around Anwar's own personality," he said.

The people probably would find it difficult to see the issue clearly in view of Anwar's background.

Ruhanie also asked the people to preserve national security and public order and to understand that the problem of safeguarding the people had been assigned to the government.

"If Datuk Seri Anwar wants to safeguard the interests of the people, he should do so in his capacity as the MP for Permatang Pauh," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AAM