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Charges must be proved with full transparency, says Abim

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (Abim) said it was "shocked" over Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad decision to remove Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister yesterday.

Its president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman said today whatever reasons were cited for the sacking, they would have to be proven with sound evidence and full transparency.

In a statement, Ahmad Azam said: "By inference, Anwar seems to have already been indicted of the `crimes' as published in the book 50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become PM.

"The conspiracy is no longer limited to a circle of party stalwarts in Umno. The tamed media has joined the Government's bandwagon in the merciless attack against Anwar.

"Where normally, a public figure has to be charged in any court of law first before one's removal from office can be considered, Anwar's case happened to be the other way around."

Ahmad Azam said Anwar had proven to be an effective Finance Minister.

"We know Anwar has been morally and spiritually upright that even family members and friends complain about his strict adherence to Islam and the rule of law, with fairness and justice," said Ahmad Azam.

"But the dubious strategy of his political enemies, tarnishing his image with slander and character assassination through poison pen letters and books has badly insulted him.

"They have to silence Anwar by all means for their Pandora's Box to remain safely sealed."

Ahmad said the association appeal to Abim members throughout the country to remain calm and to continue the struggle for truth and justice within the purview of the law, in the way of Islam

"Keep your eyes and ears open to reality so as not to be easily swayed by glib rhetorics and propaganda," he said.

"We believe that truth and justice will definitely prevail. Those responsible will surely be haunted by their conscience of guilt.

"Victory is sublimer if achieved through the sweat of sacrifice, with patience and perseverance."

(END)