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Abdullah-Anwar

DON'T POLITICISE SACKING, ABDULLAH TELLS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim should not politicise his removal from the government and party by taking the matter to the people.

"He cannot treat this as something to be solved on the streets or at public gatherings," he told a news conference here.

Abdullah, who is the foreign minister and returned home today after attending the Non-Alligned Movement summit in South Africa, was commenting on newspaper reports that Anwar intended to reach out to the people to defend himself and bring about reforms.

"His action is irresponsible, he fully knows that this is the time we are facing economic problems and the time we need political stability," said Abdullah.

"All of us should be together to support efforts for economic recovery and yet he is looking for support to solve his problem, obviously it is his problem.

"He's taking the matter to the streets, taking the matter to the ordinary people," said Abdullah.

Anwar, who was removed as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Wednesday and expelled from Umno early Friday, has alleged that there was a high-level conspiracy to ruin him.

Abdullah said Anwar should seek redress in the courts if he felt he had been victimised and not look for support from the people.

"He could bring the matter to court, he could charge those people for defamation or whatever.

"This is obviously his personal case, he has brought upon himself all these troubles," he said.

Abdullah questioned Anwar's plan to launch a national reform campaign.

"I don't know what reforms he intends to bring, but for Umno reformation is not something new.

"Umno is a reformation movement from the time it was set up and this has been accepted by even Datuk Seri Anwar," he said.

Abdullah said he was confident Umno members would not be easily "hoodwinked" into supporting Anwar's struggle as, according to him, it was aimed at advancing the personal interest of the sacked leader.

Asked if Anwar's removal was embarrassing for Malaysia in view of the approaching Commonwealth Games, Abdullah said:

"This is an Umno matter, it does not affect the games.

"Dismissal of ministers from the cabinet is nothing strange, it has happened many times in other places, even in Malaysia too...I was dismissed from the cabinet before..

"It is the prerogative of the Prime Minister...once he is not happy with you, you go. There's no need to take the matter down and complain to the people.

Abdullah said when Dr Mahathir promoted Anwar and wanted him to be his successor "nobody disturbed him".

"He was popular and enjoyed all the perks of power and all the privileges, and today he is taking to the streets and making all sorts of accusations.

"I don't understand that. This is irresponsible on his part," said Abdullah.

-- BERNAMA

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