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Ghafar-Support

DON'T BE A FOOL, GHAFAR TELLS UMNO MEMBERS

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Umno veteran Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba said Umno members should not be divided over the dismissal of former Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Don't be a fool. We've been independent for 41 years and can think for ourselves. Don't let Anwar's case divides Umno, that would be a great loss to the country and to the Malays," he told reporters after an information session to explain the economic downturn and political developments in the country at Dewan Besar, Wisma Darul Iman, here today.

Also present were Umno Information chief Datuk Dr Mohd Yusof Noor, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Ibrahim Ali, Datuk Dr Rais Yatim and former Umno Youth leader Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik.

Ghafar who is also a former deputy prime minister, said Umno members should not be divided just because of one person.

Asked about the support of other component parties with the Barisan Nasional (BN), he said they supported fully the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"So far I have not heard of the contrary," he said of the support to Dr Mahathir's action in dismissing Anwar from the government.

On Anwar's sexual misconduct, Ghafar said he was told about it two years ago by a friend but he did not believe it.

"We were playing golf then when this friend of mine told me about Anwar's misconduct. I didn't believe him and told him to stop with such talk," he said.

Ghafar said Dr Mahathir was hurt most by Anwar's action as he had been grooming Anwar as his successor.

-- BERNAMA

SBS ABG