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Mahathir-Explanation (Reactions)

GRASSROOT LEADERS SATISFIED WITH DR MAHATHIR'S EXPLANATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Dr Mahathir Mohamad's explanation to the grassroots leaders today on why Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was dismissed from the government and the party had helped to clear confusion in the matter.

Several branch and divisional Umno leaders met after the closed door meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here said they understood why the Prime Minister and Umno Supreme Council had to resort to such drastic measure.

Sabah Wanita Umno leader Datuk Norjan Bahadar Khan said it was clear that Dr Mahathir had given in alot to Anwar before deciding to strip him of his Cabinet posts.

"The dismissal was not cruel but supported by facts. Opportunity was also given to him (Anwar) to resign. Sabah Wanita Umno is satisfied with the explanation and it was done for the good of the party," she said.

Pagoh Umno divisional leader Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said there was total commitment from those present in their support in the dismissal of Anwar.

He said the branch and divisional leaders would be able to explain to party members at the grassroots level now that they were clear about the issue.

An Umno veteran Datuk Aziz Tapa meanwhile described the action against Anwar as appropriate and just.

He said that even though Anwar was dismissed before being charged in court, it had to be done because it was a question of morals.

"Morals and laws are two different things. If no decision was made by Umno and Dr Mahathir, then all of us would be accountable to the Almighty and this is no small matter," he said.

Pulau Pinang Wanita Umno leader Sharifah Aminah Syed Mohamed said she accepted the explanation since it came from the party president.

But, she said she would like to hear "the other party's" side of the story to clear any doubt.

-- BERNAMA

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