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Mahathir-Support

I'M HAPPY WITH SUPPORT, SAYS PM

CYBERJAYA, June 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is "very happy" with the pledge of support and loyalty to him as prime minister by Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders.

"I'm quite sure it's not personal. It is because the country needs a leader and they pledged loyalty to the current leader," he told reporters during a visit to the high-tech multimedia city here.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said earlier today that leaders of the ruling coalition at their Supreme Council meeting on Sunday had pledged undivided support for Dr Mahathir in overcoming the country's economic woes.

The pledge of support came amid what Dr Ling described as "adverse foreign media" reports against Malaysia and Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said the BN Supreme Council meeting last Sunday was not held specially for the BN component party leaders to pledge their loyalty and support for him.

He said the meeting was held to explain to the BN leaders on the economic situation.

"It is important for them to understand. I took the opportunity to explain to them since they were here (in KL)," Dr Mahathir said.

The BN leaders had attended the launching of the Dana Untuk Malaysia by Dr Mahathir last Sunday.

The fund, aimed at collecting donation for the Dana Khas Negara, was launched by Dr Mahathir.

Asked if he has any advice in view of the forthcoming Umno General Assembly, Dr Mahathir who is also Umno president said: "I will give my advice when I talk to them (Umno delegates) on Wednesday".

He said he will give them a strong advice.

"But that will not stop them from talking. We are a very democratic party," he said.

Asked if they are "talking" about anything now, Dr Mahathir said: "Of course, they are talking about a lot of things. We are expecting fireworks so we will see whether they will be fireworks or not".

-- BERNAMA

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