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Anwar-Indonesia

INDONESIA-MALAYSIA TIES NOT AFFECTED BY ANWAR'S REMOVAL

JAKARTA, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Indonesia-Malaysia ties will not be affected by the removal of Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Indonesian parliamentarians said today.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to sack Anwar from the Cabinet is an internal affair of Malaysia which we hope will not affect the two countries' bilateral relation," said Andi Mattalata of the ruling Golkar party.

This view was shared by chairman of the Partai Demokrasi Indonesia (PDI) faction in Parliament, Budi Hardjono.

Mattalata believed that Anwar's sudden removal was related to Malaysia's efforts to improve the country's economic condition, which Indonesia too had been doing.

"It has no connection with politics because this is not the end of Anwar Ibrahim's political career. I believe it is not so," he said.

The head of the Golkar faction in Parliament said Anwar was a leader who fully understood Malaysia's vision.

But in handling economic matters, there could be disagreements between the Prime Minister and his deputy, he said.

However, Anwar's departure would not the good relations between the two countries, especially in the economic field, he added.

Meanwhile, Budi Hardjono said Anwar's dismissal from the Cabinet would not affect Malaysia's internal and external policies.

"As close neighbouring countries, we must respect each other's sovereignty. What happens in Malaysia is merely its internal matter," he said.

Hardjono said Anwar's removal was sensible if he as finance minister was responsible for the country's economic turmoil.

"The aim of the removal is to improve the situation," he said.

--BERNAMA

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