

21 SEP 1998

Abdullah-Anwar

I'M NOT SURPRISED, SAYS ABDULLAH

By: Salmy Hashim

WASHINGTON, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has said that he is not surprised to hear of the arrest of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim following his activities after his removal from the Cabinet and his expulsion from Umno.

Abdullah, who is Umno vice president, in a telephone interview Sunday from New York where he is attending the United Nations general assembly which begins Monday, said that the police action showed that nobody is above the law.

He however expressed regret that unruly youths had created disturbance and caused damage at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) where the Umno headquarters is located, following a gathering of Anwar supporters at the National Mosque and the Merdeka Square yesterday evening.

"It looks like Anwar is very angry with Umno and the Prime Minister to be prepared to instigate the youths to riot. This is a very irresponsible action. Should the nation's political stability be jeopardised just because Anwar is dissatisfied over his dismissal from the government and Umno?" he said.

He said that Anwar should not have instigated the youths to demonstrate in support of his stand because Malaysia practices democracy.

Anwar is free to join any opposition party if he wants to fight against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the government according to the democratic way instead of violating the law, he said.

"Anwar's case will be brought before the court and the people will come to know the offences for which he is charged," said Abdullah.

-- BERNAMA

SAL RM