

05/09/1998

Party's MPs pledge support for decision

Eirmalasang Bani

UMNO Members of the Parliament Group (UMPG) yesterday pledged their full support for the Umno Supreme Council's decision to expel Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the party.

The group also supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to remove Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the the posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

"We believe that the decisions were made to protect the party's image and name," UMPG's president Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Mohd Jarjis told a press conference after chairing a meeting of the group in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

About 20 UMPG members, out of 52, turned up for the meeting.

Jamaluddin, who is also the Member of Parliament (MP) for Rompin, said they had personally contacted each member who could not attend the meeting to get his or her consent.

Also present at the press conference was Parit Sulong MP Ruhanie Ahmad.

Ruhanie, who is chairman of the Government Backbenchers Club in Parliament said he planned to schedule the club's meeting soon to discuss the matter.

Bernama reports: The Youth movements of Barisan Nasional component parties stressed yesterday that they will oppose any attempt to undermine the nation's stability following the removal of Anwar from the Cabinet and Umno.

BN Youth secretary and Umno Youth executive committee member Pemuda Umno Zulkifli Mohamed Alwi said it was important to defend the national stability so that the country was not exposed to undesirable possibilities.

"If there are parties intending to undermine the leadership, I remind them that we all stand solidly behind Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his colleagues in the national leadership," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur.

Zulkifli said the majority of activists in the BN Youth accepted and supported efforts by the national leaders, especially Dr Mahathir.

He also said that the majority of the Umno Youth Exco hoped that its leader, Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, would quickly hold a special meeting of the movement to discuss the current developments and take the necessary actions.

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