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Anwar-Pulau Pinang

PENANG PEOPLE URGED TO REMAIN CALM, SUPPORT DR MAHATHIR

PULAU PINANG, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Pulau Pinang Chief Minister and State Barisan Nasional (BN) Chairman Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon today urged the people and BN party members to remain calm and support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his efforts to bring about economic recovery.

"We have to preserve stability and peace so that economic recovery and nation-building efforts can be continued," he said in a statement.

The Chief Minister said he was shocked by the removal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. Penang is Anwar's home state.

However the hiring and firing of Cabinet Ministers was the prerogative of the Prime Minister as head of the Federal Government, Koh added.

"I respect and agree to the decision taken by the Prime Minister," he said.

The Penang BN had full trust and confidence in Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister and BN Chairman, Koh said.

It was confident he would ably manage and resolve the issues facing the country, he added.

Pulau Pinang Umno deputy Chief and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar said the dismissal of Anwar would not cause disunity among Umno members in the state.

He said Pulau Pinang Umno members accepted the decision.

"We support the Prime Minister's move as we realise it will not have been an easy decision for him to take," he added.

The Prime Minister must have strong reasons for sacking Anwar, he said after handing over science awards to school students at Tasek Gelugor.

He urged Umno members not to be emotional over the issue.

-- BERNAMA

AHM AAM