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SARAWAK BN VIEWS ANWAR'S EXPULSION AS UMNO'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

KUCHING, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak Barisan Nasional (BN) views the expulsion of sacked deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from Umno as Umno's domestic affair, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today.

Taib, who is also state BN chairman, said the action taken by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to remove Anwar from the party could have been made to safeguard the country's political stability.

"We believe that the Umno supreme council would not made the decision (to expel Anwar) if it could be avoided," he told reporters after chairing a Sarawak BN meeting here on the matter.

Meanwhile, MP for Kapit James Jimbun said all the 24 BN Members of Parliament from Sarawak fully supported Dr Mahathir's decisive handling of the political situation that had arisen, particularly in ensuring Malaysia's continued stability.

"We would also like to reiterate our support to the Prime Minister and his efforts to work for the country's economic recovery" he said in a two-paragraph statement on behalf of the MPs.

-- BERNAMA

CJ JK