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### 63 senators support decision

Sarban Singh; Cheah Chor Sooi

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Sixty-three of 65 Dewan Negara senators today supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to remove Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

The two who abstained were Jamilah Ibrahim and Hunaizah Mohd Noor, both from Kelantan.

Forty senators were present at Parliament House today to show their support for Dr Mahathir.

Malaysian Senators Club president Datuk Rahim Baba said the other 23 members could not attend the Press conference due to time constraints and other commitments.

"They have however informed us that they supported the Prime Minister's decision," he said, adding that the two senators from Kelantan were invited to attend today's gathering but did not turn up.

He said the 23 senators who were absent had either called or written to indicate their support.

Also present were Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob, club deputy president Datuk Mohd Zuki Kamaluddin and secretary Rosli Mat Hassan.

Rahim said Umno senators also fully supported the move by the party's supreme council to sack Anwar as a party member and deputy president.

"We, the Umno senators, support the supreme council's decision to expel Anwar from the party."

Rahim said the senators supported the decisions taken by Dr Mahathir and the supreme council to maintain political stability and to allow efforts to improve the country's economy to continue.

He said the senators were also of the opinion that Dr Mahathir had "very strong and valid" reasons to remove Anwar.

"We are extremely impressed and confident with Dr Mahathir's leadership and the reforms he had introduced since he became Prime Minister in 1981.

"All the reforms have been carried out in a very just and intelligent manner and have brought prosperity to the nation and people," he said.

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