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Umno MPs back removal of Anwar from Cabinet and party

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Umno Members of Parliament Group (UMPG) today expressed its support for the removal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the Cabinet and as party member, saying the decision was the right one.

Pledging support for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his capacity as Prime Minister and Umno president, the group, which comprises ordinary Umno MPs, said it believed the dismissal "was for the good of the religion, the country and the party".

The group's stand was announced by its president Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis after a 50-minute emergency meeting at Parliament House.

Jamaluddin, who is the MP for Rompin, said the decision to support the move against Anwar was based on the fact that Dr Mahathir was a very experienced and far-sighted leader.

"We are confident that Dr Mahathir had studied the matter very carefully before making the decision," he added.

He said they were further convinced that Dr Mahathir was a visionary leader who knew what he was doing as had repeatedly been proven through his previous decisions and actions.

"Although several of his previous decisions and actions were criticised, questioned and ridiculed by many quarters, in the end they were proven to be good for the country," he added.

He said among Dr Mahathir's unpopular decisions was his stand on the currency speculators which had drawn fierce criticism from around the world, but was proven to be right.

Another, he said, was the appointment of Tun Daim Zainuddin as the Special Functions Minister which was questioned by many, but had now been proven effective in helping the economy.

The same was with Dr Mahathir's decision to go ahead with the national car project in the mid-eighties.

Jamaluddin said 23 of the group's 52 members were present at the meeting, and all States except Penang and Malacca were represented by their respective leaders.

He said the group's Penang leader, Dr Nongsari Mohd Radhi (Balik Pulau) and its Malacca leader Datuk Abu Seman Yusop (Alor Gajah) were unable to attend because they had to attend an official function.

However, he said, both leaders and that of Sabah had verbally informed the group earlier that all Umno MPs from the States would support whatever decision taken at the meeting.

Other State leaders present at the meeting were Selangor's Mohd Noh Omar (Tanjung Karang), Perak's Datuk Zihin Hassan (Larut), Negri Sembilan's Datuk Abu Zahar Nika Ujang (Kuala Pilah), Terengganu's Rahim Mohd Said (Kuala Nerus), Kelantan's Datuk Shukri Mohamad (Machang), Johor's Datuk Mohd Khaled Nordin (Johor Baru), Kedah's Datuk Badruddin Amiruldin (Yan), Perlis' Mohd Isa Sabu (Kangar), Pahang's Amir Hamzah Ahmad (Lipis), and Kuala Lumpur's Datuk Dr Kamal Salleh (Wangsa Maju).

(END)