

08 SEP 1998

Youth-Pulau Pinang

P.PINANG UMNO YOUTH SUPPORTS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- The Pulau Pinang Umno Youth movement today took a unanimous stand to support the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Umno president and Prime Minister.

Its leader, Dr Abdul Rahim Ghouse, said that the decision was made at its special meeting here, taking into account the interest of the nation, party and race.

However, nine of the 11 divisions are appealing to Dr Mahathir to reconsider the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the party, he told reporters after the special meeting.

Anwar was removed as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance last Wednesday and expelled from the party the following day.

The nine divisions are Permatang Pauh, Tanjong, Bagan, Balik Pulau, Jelutong, Nibong Tebal, Bayan Baru, Bukit Mertajam and Bukit Bendera.

Dr Abdul Rahim said that the Kepala Batas Umno Youth division only agreed to the decision to make a stand to fully support Dr Mahathir and did not wish to be included in any attempt to have Anwar's membership reinstated.

"We discussed several matters just now, covering all the various factors, and we are confident that in the end, through the wisdom and fatherly qualities of Dr Mahathir, who was very close with Anwar before, Anwar's position could be reconsidered and he is returned to his side as deputy president and deputy prime minister," he said.

Dr Abdul Rahim said that the Pulau Pinang Umno Youth would submit the memorandum pertaining to their appeal to Dr Mahathir soon.

Asked whether Anwar had stated his intention to appeal against his expulsion from Umno, Dr Abdul Rahim said: "What I know from my contacts with him in several meetings with him, he still cherish the party and wants us to continue Umno's struggles".

Meanwhile, Kepala Batas Umno Youth division head Roslan Saidin said that he did not agree to the move to make an appeal over the expulsion as he chose to abide by the decision of the Umno Supreme Council to expel Anwar.

Tasek Gelugor Umno Youth division head Norazman Othman was not present at the meeting.

-- BERNAMA

AFY SJ RM