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Anwar-Rafidah

VIEW ANWAR'S DISMISSAL OBJECTIVELY- RAFIDAH

By: Mohd Rizal Razalli

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the Cabinet had endorsed the dismissal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

She urged the people to support Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership and most importantly view the removal of Anwar very objectively.

Rafidah said the sacking of Anwar is a "very sad turn of events" but certainly people have to appreciate the very strong and cogent reasons for it.

"Actually it goes to show that nobody is above the law," she said.

"I also fully support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in whatever measures initiated by him and the government," she said when asked to comment on Anwar's dismissal after opening the 11th Malaysia-Taiwan Standing Committee meeting here today.

The Prime Minister's Department in a brief statement announced that Anwar had been dismissed as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister effective 5.30 pm yesterday, but no reasons were given.

Rafidah said that "the Prime Minister has very good reasons obviously for having to do something in the political arena and at the same time, he is resolving the economic situation."

She also said there would be some people who might not understand what was happening, and therefore "they have to observe carefully to what is happening and then understand the reasons why it is being done."

She stressed that the focus now should be on the economic recovery process.

"The government has put together all the necessary economic measures and if there are any more new measures, we will do it," she said in reference to the capital control measures announced by Bank Negara recently.

When asked if there would be a change in economic policy after the removal of Anwar, she said "there will definitely be no change and that the government will continue to monitor closely the measures which have been implemented."

To improve the (economic) situation, she said Malaysians themselves can do it, while it was important for investors and outsiders to have confidence in what the government was doing.

"And it is also important to note that Malaysians have already shown confidence in what the government is doing," said Rafidah.

Rafidah, who was a former Wanita UMNO head, urged party members "to remain calm and see this matter very objectively."

"Today, I read in the newspapers that people say leaders come (and) leaders go, that is very true, no one is indispensable," she said.

"But most importantly now, let us not forget that there is a very critical issue ahead of us, that is the economic recovery," she said.

"Unless we recover, there is no point talking about politics," she added.

--BERNAMA

RIZ MR AAM