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Youth groups support decision on dismissal

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Two youth movements today declared their support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to remove Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the Cabinet.

In Malacca, 4B Youth movement head Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam, who is also State Umno liaison deputy chief, said the movement and State Umno fully supported the Prime Minister's decision.

"The Prime Minister must have a very good, concrete reason for removing Anwar. His decision is nothing but for the good of the country, communities and all races."

Malaysian Youth Council president Saifuddin Abdullah advised the people to accept Dr Mahathir's decision.

"We should not be emotional or get carried away with the episode," he said in a statement.

He said the struggle to continue to develop the country should be continued especially on measures to overcome the country's economic problems.

"We should never do anything which is against the regulations or law. National interest must be given priority at all times."

He said the MYC was saddened over Anwar's removal from all Government positions. Anwar was a former president of the council, he said, adding that his removal was a great loss to the nation.

The Universiti Malaya Academic Staff Association said Dr Mahathir was acting within his prerogative when removing Anwar.

Its president Associate Professor Datuk Mahadzir Mohd Khir said they had the confidence in the leadership of the Prime Minister although they were puzzled with Anwar's sacking as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

"All this while it had been speculated in the foreign media and magazines as well as the internet that Anwar was to resign but it was, however, denied on numerous occasions," he said. "Anwar had also denied that there was rift between him and Dr Mahathir. Even the Umno secretary-general (Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik) also refuted the allegation thus putting the matter to rest."

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