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Umno-Reaction (BN)

COUNTRY'S DESTINY IN PEOPLE'S HANDS, SAY BN LEADERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders have voiced agreement with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's view that the people should ensure that the power to rule the country remains in their own hands.

As such, they felt that the people should take seriously the Umno president's statement on attempts by foreign powers to weaken and destroy Umno, the BN and the government by supporting an opposition pact.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said Dr Mahathir's keynote address at the Umno general assembly should enlighten the people that the country's success and development lay solely in their hands.

"The Prime Minister's speech contains important matters for every Malaysian to understand and realise that they should place the country above other things," he said when met after the Prime Minister opened the general assembly today.

Samy Vellu said the people should always remember Dr Mahathir's explanation that the power to control and rule the country should remain in the hands of the people of this country and not others.

Samy Vellu said the people should be wary of attempts to undermine the country, and should not be influenced by people who had no business meddling in the country's administration.

"So our country's future must be protected by us, and must remain in our hands," he said.

Asked if there was any surprise in the Prime Minister's speech, he said: "I am surprised that he gave a detailed explanation on (Datuk Seri) Anwar's case. The case itself is already very clear."

Former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is now serving a six-year jail term after he was found guilty of abusing his power by interfering in police investigations into sexual allegations against him.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik shared the view that the country's future should be determined by the people themselves and not outsiders.

Pulau Pinang Gerakan chairman Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said Dr Mahathir's speech clearly showed that he wanted the people to be more committed in protecting the country's independence.

He said the people should treasure what the country had achieved so far.

"We must be mindful of the Prime Minister's advice for the people to be responsible for their own country, and not to take a wrong step that could destroy the country which has been independent for more than 40 years," he said.

He believed that Dr Mahathir's lengthy explanation on Anwar's case could remove doubts among the handful of people who still could not accept what was done by Anwar.

People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas said Dr Mahathir's explanation on Anwar's expulsion afforded the people an opportunity to judge the situation for themselves.

Kayveas said if they accepted Dr Mahathir's explanation, then their decision should be translated into votes for the BN in the next general election.

Anwar has claimed that the charges against him were a high-level conspiracy to end his political career.

"The people now have a chance to choose the right from the wrong," he said.

Kayveas said Dr Mahathir's explanation led him to believe that Anwar had tried to topple Dr Mahathir.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said he believed there was a conspiracy at last year's Umno general assembly to undermine the people's confidence in the Umno leadership and the BN government.

Dr Lim said he suspected that a handful of delegates to the last assembly were involved in a conspiracy to destroy the credibility of Umno in the midst of the economic downturn.

"Therefore, I believe the so-called conspiracy was not (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir's own conspiracy, but a conspiracy outside him to destroy Malaysia's economy and the credibility of the head of government, that is the Prime Minister himself," said Dr Lim who is Primary Industries Minister.

-- BERNAMA

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