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Leaders voice agreement with Dr M's viewpoints

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BARISAN Nasional 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.

Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, who is MIC president and Works Minister, said Dr Mahathir's speech extolled that Malaysians were responsible in deciding the fate and future of the country.

"He has stressed on attempts by foreigners to interfere in the running of our country.

"I am confident that the people will not listen and be taken in by such an attempt."

He felt Dr Mahathir decided to elaborate on the Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's issue in the speech because some quarters continued to blame him.

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."

Anwar, the former Deputy Prime Minister, is 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 by outsiders.

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.

People's Progressive Party 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.

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