

08 AUG 1999

Abdullah-Zaharah

NO CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST ZAHARAH NOT NECESSARY, SAYS DPM

KLANG, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- A no confidence motion against Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman is not necessary as it will only create problems, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said the statement by the Umno Supreme Council recently that there was acknowledgement and agreement by Siti Zaharah on the reversal of the reshuffle of the movement's executive committee as announced on Monday, was adequate.

At this point, he said, what Siti Zaharah needed to do was to confirm that she had heeded the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, as party president, to reverse the reshuffle.

"As such, whatever statements made by Siti Zaharah, I hope, will not deviate from her stand and decision taken to withdraw her earlier decision. Maybe, the Wanita (movement) wants it to come from Zaharah's herself," he said at a news conference after the Selangor Barisan Nasional golf tournament in aid of the Kosovo Fund, at the Kota Permai Golf Club, here.

On Wednesday, Dr Mahathir, after the Umno Supreme Council meeting, announced the reversal of the Wanita Umno executive committee reshuffle announced by Siti Zaharah on Monday.

The reversal of the reshuffle was said to be in line with Siti Zaharah's wishes after having been advised by Dr Mahathir.

News reports today quoted sources as saying that a no confidence motion against Siti Zaharah was expected to be moved before the movement's executive meeting middle of the month if the members were dissatisfied with her explanation over the issue.

Abdullah said what the movement needed to do now was to strengthen cooperation and set aside problems that could affect unity in the movement.

He said that the movement should give priority to party unity and make adequate preparations to face the coming general election.

Abdullah, the Umno vice president who is carrying out the duties of the deputy president, said that the movement had contributed significantly to the party's victory in previous general elections and believed that they could make the same contributions in the coming general election.

"Wanita (Umno) has always placed the interest of the party over all others. We could see for ourselves how hard they've worked, up to polling day," he added.

-- BERNAMA

AZH RM