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Umno-Reaction (Veteran)

RIGHT FOR DR MAHATHIR TO BE FRANK ON CONSPIRACY ISSUE- GHAFAR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba said today it is only right for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to frankly state that there was never a conspiracy to topple Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"I think the Prime Minister has to be frank and outspoken on this issue as it has been the talk among many people who assume there is such a conspiracy," he said when asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's policy address at the Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

He said if this matter was not straightened out it could probably lead to an erosion of support for Umno and the government in the next general election.

Dr Mahathir's entire speech was very relevant to the general election, Ghafar said.

"I am convinced now that the Barisan Nasional led by Umno will emerge even stronger and score a bigger victory than in the previous general election," he said.

Ghafar, the former Umno Deputy President, had this advice for Umno to score a bigger win in the next general election.

"Umno members must work hard and abide by all the directives of the party president."

Former Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar and ex Federal Cabinet Minister Datuk Dr Rais Yatim said Dr Mahathir's explanation that there was never a conspiracy to bring down Anwar had once and for all cleared Umno's name and that of its leaders.

There was no reason for accusations and ill-feelings now, he said.

The explanation had now convinced the people who should now focus on preparations for the general election, he said.

Rais, who has a doctorate in Law, said the Prime Minister's explanation on the Anwar issue did not affect Anwar's court case.

"He (Dr Mahathir) did not talk about court procedures and neither did he touch on the facts before the court. What he said is mostly public knowledge," he added.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ NZ MAI AAM