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`Sacking of Anwar no longer an issue'

THE sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is no longer an issue in the party although internal discussions persist, Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"Yes... to some people, but not to me anymore," he said on whether the "Anwar factor" was still regarded as a "thorn in the flesh" in Umno.

As some members continued to harp on Anwar's dismissal, alleging that he had been victimised by the party president, Abdullah said this could have prompted Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to raise the matter again in his presidential address.

"There are still those who continue to question the action taken and blame Dr Mahathir for the things that happened," he said.

"Let's wait for the response from delegates (debating the address)."

The Deputy Prime Minister said Dr Mahathir explained the issue in the present political context.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir emphasised the need for the new generation of Malays to possess values based on religion, discipline and knowledge.

This was vital if they wanted the community to progress.

"Dr Mahathir also stressed the need for the Malays to work harder and avoid unhealthy practices such as spreading lies and corruption and money politics as they can destroy the party and the race."

He said Dr Mahathir's advice should be heeded by members so that the struggle for the betterment of the community would not be derailed.

Abdullah said the doa (prayer) recited by Dr Mahathir at the end of his speech was significant as it indicated his sincerity and faith in the things he had done.

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