

ANWAR
BM

87
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 29 (BERNAMA)--ENCIK ANWAR IBRAHIM WHO RELINQUISHED THE PRESIDENCY OF ABIM, THE MALAYSIAN MUSLIM YOUTH MOVEMENT, LAST SATURDAY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN POLITICS.

HE MADE HIS ANNOUNCEMENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE TODAY ALSO ATTENDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.

ENCIK ANWAR, WHO JOINED UMNO IN THE 1960S, SAID HE ARRIVED AT HIS DECISION AFTER DEEP THOUGHT AND LONG DISCUSSIONS WITH BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS, PARTICULARLY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR.

HOWEVER, HE DID NOT OPENLY SAY WHETHER HE WOULD BE STANDING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION AS WIDELY SPECULATED.

'THAT DEPENDS ON THE PRIME MINISTER', HE SAID IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS. --BERNAMA MORE 1744/MD

ANWAR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, SITTING NEXT TO HIM, ALSO DID NOT WANT TO SAY ANYTHING FURTHER.

'YOU CAN WAIT AND SEE DEVELOPMENTS FOR YOURSELF+' THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

ASKED WHETHER ENCIK ANWAR WOULD BE OFFERED A MINISTERSHIP IF HE CONTESTED AND WON A SEAT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS PREMATURE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

'I MYSELF DO NOT KNOW WHO WILL WIN IN THE ELECTIONS. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER I WILL CONTINUE AS PRIME MINISTER,' HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT AS BARISAN NASIONAL AND UMNO LEADER, HE WELCOMED ENCIK ANWAR'S DECISION. --BERNAMA MORE 1754/MD

N126 (F)

ANWAR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

'WE VALUE HIS EXPERIENCES,' DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID. 'WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS OUR NATION-BUILDING EFFORTS.'

A STUDENT LEADER SINCE HIS UNIVERSITY DAYS, ENCIK ANWAR, 35, HAD LED ABIM FROM 1974.

ASKED WHY HE CHOSE UMNO TO INDULGE IN POLITICS, HE SAID UMNO PROVIDED HIM ROOM TO STRUGGLE FOR HIS PRINCIPLES.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD DISPLAYED A COMMITMENT TO INFUSE ISLAMIC VALUES IN ADMINISTRATION, COMBAT GRAFT, ERADICATE POVERTY AND SO ON, ALL OF WHICH HAD GREATLY IMPRESSED HIM.

ENCIK ANWAR, WHO ADMITTED TO A LONG-STANDING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, DATUK MUSA HITAM AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, SAID HE FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED WITH THEM QUESTIONS OF RELIGION AND OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING NATIONAL INTEREST. --BERNAMA MORE 1833/MD

N127 (F)

ANWAR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HOWEVER, SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS REGARDING HIS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN UMNO BEGAN ONLY A WEEK AGO, HE ADDED.

ENCIK ANWAR IS A MEMBER OF THE CEROK TOK KON UMNO BRANCH IN BUKIT MERTAJAM.

HE IS TIPPED TO CONTEST IN PERMATANG PAUH AGAINST THE PAS INCUMBENT, HAJI ZABIDI ALI. --BERNAMA 1834/MD