

# Anwar hits out at Umno's 'silent' leaders

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KUALA PILAH, Sun. — Umno Youth leader Anwar Ibrahim today criticised Umno leaders who have yet to come forward in support of the Prime Minister over the Constitution amendments issue.

He said there were some leaders in the party who appeared to be unconcerned over the issue and remained silent. These leaders did not even appreciate the Prime Minister's efforts in settling the amendments issue for the benefit of the rakyat.

Encik Anwar, who is also the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, said there were "two or three" party leaders who would like to see the Prime Minister toppled.

"They love to see Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad go so that they could take over his position," he said.

Umno Youth have pledged their undivided support to the Prime Minister on the issue because it was aimed at smoothening the administration and clearing any ambiguity in the Constitution, according to Encik Anwar.

## Support

"The amendments issue does not mean that there is a confrontation between the rakyat and the Rulers," he said.

Speaking at the opening of a one-day politics and information course at the district council hall here, Encik Anwar called on the rakyat to

give their support and stand solidly behind the Prime Minister in ensuring the amendments issue was settled wisely.

The people should not be unduly worried over rumours as the amendments would ensure that the Constitution was to safeguard them.

"It would not be right for Umno Youth not to appreciate the values and capabilities of a Malay leader as the Prime Minister because since Independence, Umno leaders have fought for the dignity of the Malays and maintained the respect for the sovereignty of the Rulers," said Encik Anwar.

He also denied rumours from certain quarters that the amendments were for the benefit of the party lead-

ers only.

The rakyat had demonstrated their strong willpower in supporting the leaders in the fight for Independence and in the same manner they should now rally behind the Prime Minister in sorting out the amendments problem.

## Benefit

Encik Anwar said the Constitution was made for the people and could be amended whenever and wherever necessary for the benefit of all and in the interest of the country.

He said the people, especially Malays, have respected the sovereignty of the constitutional monarchy.

Encik Anwar also hit out at those who spread rumours that it was difficult for the country to have a commoner like Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir for he would not be able to understand the crux of the people's problems.

These rumour-mon-



ENCIK ANWAR

gers, he said, were misleading the people into thinking that it would be better to have a Prime Minister from a royal family so that he would understand better the people's problems.

At the opening of the course, more than 1,000 pledged their support for the Prime Minister and handed a memorandum of support to Encik Anwar to be presented to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.