

'I AM NO PROPAGANDIST FOR DR M' Anwar on his support of Govt policies

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Umno Youth leader Anwar Ibrahim today criticised people who described him as a dedicated propagandist for party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said it was only natural that he should defend Dr Mahathir's policies as he was party to their approval at the Umno Supreme Council and Cabinet levels.

"There are also quarters who want me to confront the Prime Minister over certain policies, but I will reiterate my stand that I will not be their *ayam sabung* (fighting cock)," Encik Anwar said in his address at the opening of the Ampang Jaya Umno Youth and Wanita delegates meetings at the Dewan Serbaguna, Taman Seri Keramat, here.

He said that certain things needed to be settled quietly, not in an open and confrontational manner.

"Views on these matters can always

be brought to the Prime Minister's attention at the correct time and place."

Commenting on the coming Umno election, Encik Anwar said that whether there would be challenges for the top posts in the party would depend on the spirit of consensus between aspiring contestants.

"The outcome of these consensus will determine whether there will be challenges or not for top party posts," he said.

"But whatever happens during the election, every aspiring contestant and party member must not lose track of his reason for joining Umno, that is to protect the interests and rights of the Malays, Islam and the nation."

Last week, the MP for Kok Lanas, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad, expressed a similar view on contests for top party posts.

Opening the general meeting of the Selayang Utara Umno branch, Datuk



ENCIK ANWAR

Abdullah said that whether there would be challenges for the top posts would depend on the four key players in Umno — Dr Mahathir, party deputy president Datuk Musa Hitam, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and party vice-president Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba.

Encik Anwar also said there were certain Malays who, affected by the economic slowdown, were now blaming Umno for their setbacks.

He said these Malays expected the party to rescue them from their economic problems, forgetting that Umno also had bigger commitments, such as helping the rural poor.

He said these Malays were trying to influence party members with their allegations, now that the Umno polls were approaching.

"Umno Youth will not let itself be influenced by these minority groups with vested interests."