

8 JAN 1996
Anwar-Youth
ANWAR RESPECTS UMNO YOUTH STAND

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today he respected the stand taken by Umno Youth to leave it to the party's Supreme Council (MT) to decide on the intention of its leader Datuk Nazri Abdul Aziz to hand back the post to Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the first session of the Second Pacific Dialogue here, he said "that is the view of the Youth and we respect their stand."

Anwar said the matter would be taken up at the Supreme Council meeting scheduled for next Monday.

Meanwhile, Kedah Umno Youth head Ahmad Lebai Sudin and several leaders met Anwar at Hotel Istana to convey the decision of the state Umno Youth.

Ahmad, who is Bukit Lada State Assemblyman, told reporters the decision reached today showed Umno Youth unanimously rejected Rahim and wanted Nazri to continue leading the movement.

Since Rahim submitted his resignation letter to the Supreme Council, it would be up to the council to decide on the matter, not the movement, he said.

He added: "We want Nazri to continue acting in the post until elections later this year and we do not want any new problem to crop up with the return of Rahim to lead the movement."

Earlier, Anwar, who is the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, said participants of the dialogue discussed at length the view of Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the new approach of Pacific nations towards the security problem in the region when opening the dialogue this morning.

He said speakers took the opportunity to use the dialogue as an informal forum to discuss international issues particularly those related to the region.

"We discussed matters related to the economy, politics, environment and security among Asian countries and those of East Asia with emphasis given to the political system or approach of the region," he added. -- BERNAMA