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Anwar-S46

ANWAR SAYS HE'S NOT WORRIED BY RETURN OF RAZALEIGH TO UMNO

By: Wan Ahmad Hulaimi

DUBLIN, July 8 (Bernama) --Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today he was not worried that the return of Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to Umno might jeopardise his position in the party.

Anwar told Malaysian students at a meeting here that there were people who said the return of Tengku Razaleigh "would pose a problem" to him.

"Posts in the government are (given) at the discretion of the Prime Minister while posts in the party are decided by the delegates (at the Umno general assembly)," he said in response to a question whether Tengku Razaleigh, a former finance minister, should be given a Cabinet post.

Anwar smiled and told about 100 Malaysian students present at the meeting at a hotel here: "I am not worried, thank you."

He said S46 from the start was a splinter party which became even smaller after the last general election.

However, Umno should not be arrogant and should welcome the return of S46 members, said Anwar who is Umno deputy president.

In fact, Umno should not only welcome back S46 members but also PAS members and any other Malays to help strengthen Malay unity, he added.

"But what we don't like are conditions. What need is there for conditions? We accept all to rejoin," he said.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had said on Saturday that the return of Tengku Razaleigh was not a move to check the influence of Anwar who would succeed the president according to Umno's tradition.

Anwar told the Malaysian students here and elsewhere that they should not just pursue their degrees but should also aim for excellence.

"The pursuit of excellence is a moral and social imperative -- meaning we must strive for success in every human endeavour," he said.

Asked by a student why the Bumiputera share of Malaysia's economic activities was fixed at 30 per cent and not raised to 60 per cent, Anwar said that the Bumiputeras' share was merely 0.1 per cent of RM1 billion before the introduction of the quota but had since risen to 30 per cent of RM100 billion.

"People previously did not expect Malays to be able to take part in business at the same level with the Chinese except by way of Ali Baba partnerships, but now the Malays are actively competing on par with the Chinese," he said.

Before meeting the students, Anwar and his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah visited the Royal College of Surgeons, a medical college where she is still remembered as a Malaysian student who won a gold medal in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Anwar's official visit here will end today after scheduled meetings with Irish Prime Minister John Bruton and with representatives from the Irish corporate and financial sector. -- BERNAMA

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