

13 JAN 1996

Anwar-contest

CANDIDATES MUST ADHERE TO PARTY ETHICS IN UMNO V.P. CONTEST

BUTTERWORTH, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today advised candidates vying for the post of Umno Vice Presidents in the party elections in November to adhere to party ethics.

He said Umno had ethics and certain guidelines which must be adhered to by candidates in the party elections.

He welcomed the intention of the six candidates who offered themselves for the post of vice presidents but stressed that eventhough they were free to contest, they must preserve party ethics.

"They can contest but they are bound by ethics and guidelines and I feel it's good that we follow all the rules," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Pulau Pinang Umno Liaison Committee and meeting all members of the Pulau Pinang City Council and Seberang Perai Town Council from Umno at the Bagan Umno building here.

Anwar, who is also UMNO Deputy President and Chairman of the Pulau Pinang Umno Liaison Committee, said he believed Party President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would give his views and instructions on the matter at the next Supreme Council meeting.

The matter had to be discussed to prevent unhealthy elements from cropping up as the heat from the campaign was beginning to be felt already, she said after a meeting with the Pulau Pinang Wanita Umno today.

Rafidah, who is also International Trade and Industry Minister, said the more candidates vying for the posts would mean less chances for the contenders and this might cause supporters to become desperate and do things that could cause problems.

She said they had a right to contest but she hoped that there would be no problem created during the campaign period.

Rafidah said she did not want a repeat of the 1987 incident where campaigners put too much effort on ensuring that the respective candidates won while neglecting their other responsibilities.

The more people going for the posts, the more wastage there were in preparing gifts and other items, she said.

Reminding Wanita members not to allow themselves to be exploited, she said she feared that in their eagerness to win they might forget their friends and resorted to slander.

Asked to state her stand on the matter, Rafidah requested that she was not asked such question as she was not "crazy for post".

Meanwhile in ALOR SETAR, Supreme Council member Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said the many contenders from within the Umno Supreme Council vying for the post of party vice presidents showed a healthy development in Umno.

He said the more contestants vying for the three posts of vice president would allow delegates to make better assessment in choosing candidates in the November party elections.

Syed Hamid, who is also Defence Minister, said the candidates for the vice president posts this time comprised new generation leaders who were capable of safeguarding the future of the Malays. -- BERNAMA