

08 AUG 1996

Daim-Anwar

DAIM AGREES WITH PM'S VIEW ON ANWAR

PULAU PINANG, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- The Government's Economic Adviser Tun Daim Zainuddin said today he agrees with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's view that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim can succeed him as Prime Minister without causing any adverse effects to Umno.

"Anwar has the quality and so far he has performed his duty well. Furthermore, Umno has elected him and Dr Mahathir has nominated him. I have no problem (with that)," he said.

Daim expressed confidence that Anwar would become the Prime Minister when the time comes because all the party members supported him.

So far the party never had any succession problem with regard to the Prime Minister's post and this had contributed to the country's stability, he told reporters after launching the convocation carnival and open day of Universiti Sains Malaysia here.

Daim was commenting on Dr Mahathir's statement that he is confident Anwar can succeed him without bringing any adverse effects to Umno when it is time for him to step down.

Daim, who is Umno treasurer, urged party members to remain united, continue to work hard and to ignore nonsensical stories about the party leadership.

Daim also concurred with Dr Mahathir's view that the Malays had made spectacular achievements.

"The have succeeded not only in the country but also outside the country. Previously no Malays did business overseas but many do now, and this is something to be proud of," he said.

This was the result of Umno's struggle and it was only right that the Malays continued to support the party to safeguard their well-being, he said.

Daim also welcomed the move by Parti Melayu Semangat 46 leaders to return to Umno, saying this will enhance Malay unity under the Umno umbrella and the country would remain stable.

"It is good if they want to join Umno. It does not matter even if it takes time because there are procedures to be followed for entering Umno," he said.

On the United States' move to punish companies making new investments in energy projects in Iran or Libya, Daim said Malaysia need not submit to such actions.

"Why should we bow to this kind of action? If there is any country which wants to buy our products, we will sell. Whatever it is, we will find ways to trade with the whole world, irrespective of whether it is black, white or red."

The U.S. action was politically motivated because President Bill Clinton would be facing elections this year, said Daim, a former Finance Minister.

"Maybe they want to become heroes or they have nothing else to do so they create all sorts of issues," he said.

Daim also said Malaysia's economy would not be affected by the slump in the electronics market.

Malaysia's current emphasis was high-technology industries but it always conducted thorough studies before going into any venture, he said.

Daim said it was normal for the market to drop when everybody rushed into a successful industry and caused an oversupply in the products. --

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