

11 MAY 1996

Convention-Anwar

DON'T BE COMPLACENT, UMNO MEMBERS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today reminded Umno leaders and members not to be complacent with the success achieved over the past 50 years.

He said the success could weaken their spirit and make them forget the main issues and the objectives of the party's struggles.

"Let me give a reminder that a party which has been in power, in comfort and in prosperity for too long will be easier to defeat," he said when closing the Umno's 50th Anniversary Convention at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

He said party members should take advantage of the golden jubilee celebration to re-examine the principles and agenda of the Malay struggles as well as its future objectives.

In this respect, Anwar wanted all working papers tabled, resolutions and declaration made at the convention be distributed to Umno members at all levels to instil interest in the history and struggles of the party.

"Only this way can we continue to be with the people and committed to the principles of the party's struggles," he said.

Anwar, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said he would ask organising committee chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to prepare a report on the convention on for Umno Ministers, Menteri Besar and Chiefs Minister as well as Umno Supreme Council.

"We want to ensure that the resolutions and declarations made at the convention are capable of being implemented," he said.

He said he would also recommend to Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that a committee be assigned to study and prepare fresh report on the implementation of the programme, agenda in all fields -- economy, education/socio-culture and religion -- including political ethics.

The report would be presented at the party's general assembly in October, he said.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, took to task some Malay entrepreneurs who had forgotten their social obligations to help fellow Malays after what the government had done for them.

"Under the privatisation policy, we want companies to discharge their social responsibility such as providing training, scholarships and housing to the people as well as helping new Bumiputera companies," he said.

He said the government had directed the Economic Planning Unit to prepare a more stringent guideline to overcome weaknesses in the implementation of the privatisation policy.

He said wealth derived from the privatisation policy should be fairly distributed through vendor, franchise, training and umbrella schemes.

Anwar also touched on poverty, housing and education which still affected the majority of Malays and Bumiputeras in the rural areas.

"Neglecting the problem of poverty means ignoring one of the main objectives which party leaders had been trying to eradicate since independence," he said.

--BERNAMA

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