

08 AUG 1996

Anwar-Conspiracy

FIRM STAND BY PM WILL END CONSPIRACY THEORY, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the firm stand of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad regarding their relationship will put an end to the theory of conspiracy bandied about within Umno.

Anwar, who is Umno deputy president, said the theory could have been concocted by people for the purpose of seeking position or contract.

"Of course, I am grateful with the decision of the Prime Minister to reiterate the stand," he said in response to questions by reporters after he launched Allied Bank Berhad's "PALWORLD" online banking service today.

In an interview telecast by RTM on Tuesday, Dr Mahathir said the people were too obsessed with conspiracy theories in the relationship between him and his deputy, looking for hidden motives when there was none.

He also said he was confident of Anwar's ability to take over from him.

"I have great faith in him (Dr Mahathir)," said Anwar.

Asked whether he was disappointed with the attitude of some Umno members who raised the conspiracy theory, he said: "We have many members, so there will be many theories.

"But with our stand, I feel it (the theory) will not arise (again)."

Asked on the remark by Dr Mahathir that he had at times felt uncertain about his deputy's loyalty when inundated with all kinds of reports, Anwar said the Prime Minister spoke of the matter as a normal person.

"Sometimes he hears about certain people who, perhaps with certain motives, repeatedly bring up doubts, (and) so at times as the Prime Minister stated he did have some doubts.

"However, this matter is quickly put to rest after we meet up and he sees my record of loyalty and the way I work with him," said Anwar.

Asked whether he himself felt the same way when faced with many negative reports on his relationship with Dr Mahathir, Anwar said in such a situation his style was to ask the Prime Minister directly.

"Whenever I have felt a little doubt, I asked him. When he said no, that's it," he said. -- BERNAMA

AZZ CTL