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Anwar-Rulers

LAW IS CLEAR ON ATTENDANCE OF RULERS, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- The law is clear on the attendance of Rulers to the Rulers Conference, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He said a Ruler wishing to attend the conference must be accompanied by a Menteri Besar as his adviser or a representative appointed by the Menteri Besar according to legal provision and the Constitution.

"I think the Rulers Conference has been advised accordingly and their decision might be relevant," he said when asked to comment on whether the absence of the Sultan of Kelantan at the 174th Conference of the Rulers was due to absence of Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

The Sultan of Kelantan reportedly did not want Nik Aziz to accompany him to the two-day conference which ended today at the Istana Negara. However, Nik Aziz did not appoint any representative.

Anwar said he did not know whether the absence of the Sultan of Kelantan had anything to do with the legal provision.

"Maybe, the Attorney-General can explain. We must respect the Constitution," he said, adding that his presence at the meeting was as a representative appointed by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On news report that he would be asked to head the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM), Anwar said: "I already have a lot of work. I like sports but I am not interested in holding post in sports bodies."

Anwar, who is also the Chief Whip of Barisan Nasional (BN) in Parliament, was also asked on the attendance of ministers, deputy ministers, parliamentary secretaries and BN Members of Parliament in the Dewan Rakyat.

He said attendance should not be a problem unless the MP was a minister due to work commitment, citing as example the absence of Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik. -- BERNAMA

AH ABG