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Umno-Windingup (Anwar)

MAKE REFORMATION A THEME OF UMNO STRUGGLE, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today called on Umno members to make the reformation of the Malays the theme of the party's struggle in the coming years.

Anwar, who is Umno deputy president, said that the spirit of reformation should be instilled in debates at the division level next month, followed by the branch level in December.

"You have worked real hard during the last three to four months...let us now see whether or not we can work even harder for the reformation of the Malays in the country.

"If truly sincere, don't say something but do something else, don't talk of reformation but not confident of reformation, don't raise the question of moral values but still lead an immoral life, don't talk of a clean lifestyle but still resort to corruption, don't make any mention of reformation if not prepared to see great changes taking place within the Malay community," he said when winding up the debate on the final day of the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade centre here.

Anwar concentrated on the question of Malay reformation which was the thrust of Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's presidential speech at the opening of the general assembly.

He said that Dr Mahathir's call that Umno should conduct post-mortems when the party was strong was logical as such a move would prevent the party from becoming weak.

"This is vital before reformation takes place. Reformation and changes only when we are tough and strong, reformation only when we are motivated by a certain force...a call from within to initiate changes. Cultural reformation will not happen without an awareness and realisation that reformation is in the interest of the community," he said.

Anwar said that to be prepared for reformation, there should be a quest for self-improvement and the improvement of the party, followed by changes in the thinking culture of the community including their understanding and appreciation of religions, Islam, social culture and new technology.

He said that only then would the community be able to rise towards reemergence, adopting only the positive elements.

Anwar said that Dr Mahathir's policy speech may be the first in political history where a leader has taken the initiative to appeal to a party to analyse itself.

He said that Dr Mahathir's speech might have been hard-hitting but there is no alternative for him and for the party members.

Anwar said that it was far better for Umno to rectify its weaknesses and shortcomings while the party was still strong because under such circumstances leaders were usually lulled into complacency.

"It is when we are strong in politics, the economy and in our machinery that we should conduct post-mortems," he said.

Anwar, who is the chairman of the Umno disciplinary committee, said that he would continue to carry out actions to ensure discipline within the party and not only in the run-up to party elections.

Anwar congratulated those who won in the contest for posts in the party election and called on the losers to continue to give their support to the party leadership so that the party would become even stronger.

He called on them to close ranks and let bygones be bygones. -- BERNAMA
AFY RM

