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Anwar-Nomination

NO COERCION IN DECISION TO NOMINATE INCUMBENTS, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today the party Supreme Council is not trying to coerce Umno divisions when it ruled that they can only nominate the incumbents for the president and deputy president's posts.

"We cannot force, that is not our intention," he said.

Anwar, who is the Deputy Prime Minister, said the party's general assembly last year made the decision to have no contest for the top two posts.

"Hence, we only ask the members to respect the spirit and decision of the assembly which is the body in the party," he told reporters after performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the Securities Commission and Securities Industry Development Centre building at Pesiaran Bukit Kiara here.

The Supreme Council decided on Saturday that Umno divisions can only nominate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for president and Anwar for deputy president during their divisional meetings in July.

It ruled that any other candidates proposed for the two posts will be rejected.

Anwar said the Supreme Council has no power to force divisions to nominate only the incumbents.

However, the no-contest resolution adopted by the last general assembly was in line with the democratic process as it was the delegates who made the decision and the Supreme Council was merely implementing it, he added.

Anwar also said the Umno management committee which he heads will study whether there is a need to take disciplinary action or otherwise against divisions breaching the ruling.

He said the Supreme Council meeting last week did not discuss the matter.

"Our discussions did not reach that stage but I will raise the matter with the management committee," he said.

On the appeals by several Umno members including Tajuddin Abdul Rahman of Pasir Salak division and Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad of Johor Baharu division regarding the disciplinary action taken against them, Anwar said the disciplinary committee will make its recommendations to the Supreme Council soon.

Tajuddin was expelled for his alleged involvement in money politics while Shahrir's membership was suspended after complaints that he supported the opposition candidate in the last general election. -- BERNAMA

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