

12 SEP 1996

Anwar-Umno

NO SPECIFIC CASE OF MONEY POLITICS DISCUSSED BY UMNO PANEL

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- The Umno Special Committee which met yesterday did not discuss any specific case of misconduct or money politics involving candidates for the posts of vice-president and Youth and Wanita heads.

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today the meeting, chaired by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, only discussed complaints in a general way since there was no evidence or complete report.

"(There was) no specific discussion on specific cases," he told reporters after attending the presentation of the Hadiah Bahasa (Language Award) sponsored by the Malaysian Linguistics Association and Public Bank Bhd.

Asked whether the meeting discussed any cases of candidates to be issued warnings, Anwar said: "Yes, but we will make an announcement when we have a decision."

He did not reveal the names of those concerned.

"We cannot take action merely based on reports we received without scrutinising them," he said.

Besides Dr Mahathir and Anwar, the committee also comprises party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and three party veterans -- former secretary-general Tan Sri Mustapha Jabar, former Cabinet Minister Tan Sri Abdul Samad Idris and former Kedah Member of Parliament Azahari Taib.

Yesterday's meeting was the first for the committee which was set up by the Umno Supreme Council last week following questions over the impartiality of the Disciplinary Committee whose members include candidates for party posts.

Anwar said the meeting established two categories of misconduct by candidates -- contravention of campaign ethics and bribery.

He said the meeting decided that a warning would be sufficient for candidates who violated the campaign ethics before the Sept 6 Umno Supreme Council meeting.

However, any candidate who contravened the ethics after that date would be barred from contesting and could be expelled from the party, he said.

An offence involving bribery would be penalised with expulsion regardless of whether it was committed before or after the Sept 6 Supreme Council meeting, he added.

Anwar, who is the Deputy Prime Minister, said Dr Mahathir believed it would be proper to scrutinise all cases regardless of whether there was a written objection or not.

He reiterated the party's stand that the warning against misconduct was applicable to all candidates and delegates.

"Stern action will be taken irrespective of their position in the government or the party," he said.

Anwar said he had received many queries on programmes already arranged but which had to be cancelled as they could be misconstrued as campaigning.

He said those unclear on the status of programmes could refer the matter to the party president or, in his absence, to the deputy president.

"Generally, normal work involving the government could continue to be held. Only programmes involving the party or programmes newly arranged should be cancelled," he said.

He said greeting cards and advertisements were prohibited. -- BERNAMA
MOK HT CTL

