

15 JUL 1996

Anwar-PAS

PAS-S46 SPLIT LONG EXPECTED, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15 (Bernama) -- The split between PAS and Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) has been expected as the alliance could not last, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

He said S46 made a mistake teaming up with PAS and S46 members should now correct it by returning immediately to Umno.

"They have long been separated, only not divorced," he told reporters at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang today after sending off Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who left for official visits to the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan.

After months of bickering publicly, PAS yesterday officially severed all ties with S46, its ally in the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah loose coalition which has ruled Kelantan since it toppled the Barisan Nasional state government in the 1990 general election.

Anwar, who is Umno deputy president, said the latest political development has enhanced Umno's position in Kelantan should an election be called now.

Asked to comment on a statement by S46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah that the split with PAS will hasten the return of S46 members to Umno, Anwar said: "We have told them to rejoin fast, no need to wait for a divorce (from PAS)".

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the action by PAS exposes the party's ruthlessness as though it is power crazy.

"When it was trying to gain power in the past, it befriended everyone, but once in power it kicked everyone at its whim and fancy...this is ruthless," said Mohamed who is Umno secretary-general. -- BERNAMA

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