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LEAD Sanusi-Forgive

SANUSI FORGIVES ASSEMBLYMEN WHO OPPOSED HIM

ALOR SETAR, June 21 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid has forgiven the 22 Kedah assemblymen who had taken a stand to oppose him previously.

He said he had forgiven their action, either on the memorandum that they had sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last March or the efforts taken to discredit him.

He disclosed this at a meeting with Kedah Barisan Nasional assemblymen here last night.

Only one of the 22 assemblymen who had signed the memorandum against Sanusi

-- assemblyman for Langgar Sheikh Alias Mustafa -- was absent.

Two others who did not attend were Padang Matsirat assemblyman Hassan Bulat and former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff, who is the assemblyman for Jitra.

"I know what transpired during the last 14 months (since the 1995 general election until his appointment as Menteri Besar).

Sanusi said the happenings included the unpleasant accusations made against him aimed at discrediting him.

"There were some people who said I was not qualified (to become Menteri Besar). Someone wanted to cut his finger if I became Menteri Besar. There were also some people who wanted me to look at my reflection in a coconut shell containing urine," said Sanusi, citing some of the things said by the people to ridicule him

However, he said he had forgiven everyone concerned and wanted them to forget the incidents.

"It's enough. We close this chapter and treat the incidents as an experience from which we should learn."

He hoped such incidents would not be repeated and if they did, he said, he might not be as kind then.

Sanusi had stated the incidents earlier in his speech which was delivered in a casual and sometimes serious mood, unlike his usual speeches with the humourous anecdotes.

The atmosphere in the hall was sombre and the guests, particularly the assemblymen concerned, appeared calm listening to Sanusi.

"As a former Deputy Home Minister and having wide knowledge on internal politics, Dr Mahathir and I had studied closely the developments in Kedah," he said.

"As such, I wish to forget or more specifically, I forgive you and hope you forgive me for what had happened," he added.

"This forgiveness should not be interpreted as forgiving out of ignorance...meaning he forgives because he does not know what we have done."

Sanusi said there was honour in forgiving and he had forgiven all the assemblymen concerned because he knew what had transpired.

Sanusi continued his speech by explaining his aspiration, objectives and philosophy which he introduced in administering the state government.

Last March, 22 Kedah assemblymen from Umno signed a memorandum stating support for Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff's leadership and rejected any move to replace him as Menteri Besar.

They also opposed any plans to appoint Sanusi to lead the state government.

Their actions were reported to have displeased the Prime Minister and Umno President, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who said their actions went against party tradition which held discussions before making any decision.

All the assemblymen concerned were later called to explain their actions to the Prime Minister. -- BERNAMA

MFJ AO