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Anwar-Candidates

WARNING TO ASPIRING UMNO CANDIDATES

IPOH, May 25 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today that candidates vying for posts in the Umno election in October should abide by the rules.

Anwar, who is Umno deputy president, said he had adequate proof that some candidates had blatantly violated the rules.

Umno's Management and Disciplinary Committee would meet on Wednesday to discuss the matter, said Anwar, who heads the committee.

He was speaking to reporters after opening the Perak Umno convention and exhibition held in conjunction with the party's 50th anniversary celebrations here.

Earlier in his speech, he reminded candidates not to breach the rules through activities like organising trips for their supporters.

Anwar said such actions could affect the unity, integrity and credibility of Umno as the ruling party.

Umno leaders should realise that their victory should be based on the people's confidence in them and not be regarded by the people as too greedy, extravagant and arrogant, he added.

He said that the people usually make their own evaluation and then lend their support. Therefore those in power should not compromise on such matters, he added.

Anwar also reminded candidates not to resort to mud slinging in their speeches during their campaigns as such tactics could lead to disunity.

He said that there were those who used money while some claimed to be in the same camp as a certain leader.

This caused difficulties as he and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed had to keep on issuing denials, he said.

Anwar said to ensure that he and Dr Mahathir need no longer come up with clarifications and denials, guidelines were formulated so that party unity was upheld.

Anwar said that it also required the members' cooperation and loyalty to the leadership at all levels.

He also said that in the administration of the state and country, it did not mean that all decisions of the leadership were fully agreed to by all members of the government.

He said for example, not all decisions taken by the Prime Minister were agreeable to him but this difference of opinion did not mean that there was tension or a decision made was not supported and the leadership was not acceptable.

Members should not lose sight of the fact that Umno's unity was most vital and should not allow quarters with their own agenda to cause obstacles to unity, he added.

Anwar said the foreign media were sometimes the culprit and some of them supported such negative opinion.

He said that he had touched on the matter following the news conference by the Prime Minister on his return yesterday when he was repeatedly asked by reporters whether he had tendered his resignation as deputy prime minister when he was seated just next to Dr Mahathir. -- BERNAMA

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