

30 AUG 1997

Anwar-Rumour

ANWAR CONSIDERS RESIGNATION AS RUMOUR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today talk of him resigning was mere rumour.

"I'm here as the DPM, right?" he told reporters in the rain after opening the National Horse Show '97 at the STC Equestrian & Sports Centre at Jalan Sungai Besi, here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had earlier this morning said that Anwar was not resigning as Finance Minister and dismissed allegations that the current decline in share prices at the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange is due to the resignation rumours.

Asked by a reporter to comment of the statement by Dr Mahathir, Anwar agreed that the talk of him resigning was rumour-generated.

During the unusual interview under an umbrella in the rain after touring the show, Anwar was asked at length on matters concerning the economy.

In his speech, he said the rising interest in equestrian sports had opened the way for the nation's youth to take part in horse-riding competitions up to the international level.

It also enabled the equine associations to step programmes like training and basic courses to develop equestrian sports, Anwar, who is also president of the Malaysian Equine Council, said.

He said the success of several young Malaysian equestrians at international shows should motivate the growth of equestrian sports.

Anwar said the biggest challenge to operators of the equine industry was to find an approach and arrange programmes that could attract the general public to the sport.

The show is the fourth to be held in conjunction with the National Day celebrations. Over 60 equestrian clubs took part this year. -- BERNAMA

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