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Anwar-test

COMPLACENCY DESTROYS, ANWAR WARNS UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the need to consolidate Umno is all the more pressing now in the wake of the country being subjected to incessant tests arising from the very progress it has achieved all this while.

"The party's ideals are being tested now," he said.

It was time that party members showed more spirited support for the leadership in taking on the onslaught against the Malaysian economy, said Anwar, who is also Finance Minister.

Anwar, who is Umno deputy president, said this when simultaneously opening the party's youth and women's wings annual assemblies here today ahead of the tomorrow's Umno general assembly.

He urged all levels within the party to close ranks to back Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's endeavour to reinforce confidence in the economy and put it back on the fast track of growth.

Anwar reminded party members that preoccupation with slander, arrogance, complacency, which, compounded by external attacks, would only destroy Umno and make the Malays backward again.

He said party members caught off guard against these pitfalls would only live to see the country's progress achieved thus far fizzle away "at a blink".

Anwar's reminder to Umno members came in the wake of the government's all-out drive to stave off onslaught against the economy in the form of speculative attacks against the ringgit and manipulation of the stock market.

"It appears to me that we have not learned a lesson from the events that brought down the Malacca empire; from the tales of Si-Kitul and Raja Mandaliar which were often repeated every time we hold our general assembly," he said.

Anwar said Umno members still ignored to recognise the links between such tales of the past with what was happening now.

He said inability to learn from history was a dangerous oversight which would only lull members into believing that the good life they were enjoying would last forever.

"We become arrogant and believe in our own invincibility against external attacks," Anwar said.

Anwar urged the people to discard arrogance and not to associate it with strength.

On the contrary, he said, what characterised real strength was humility and wariness.

Anwar said the economy has be built up on the principles of justice and care, putting first poverty eradication, wealth distribution and closing rural and regional gaps.

"Let's not let greed rule us in our enthusiasm to be corporate leaders that we ignore the cause of our race," he said.

Anwar urged both the Umno Youth and Wanita Umno to be the party's vanguard against internal and external threats. -- BERNAMA

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