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Anwar-Islam

ISLAMIC LAWS: THERE MUST BE WISDOM IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION, SAYS ANWAR

IPOH, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- The implementation of Islamic laws and related issues must be properly looked into and resolved with wisdom, not in a hasty manner, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said tonight.

Anwar, who is also Umno deputy president, said that in resolving problems relating to Islam, Muslims should avoid clouding the issues.

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement on an Islamic issue was viewed by some as harsh because he was "concerned that we might deviate from our efforts to promote Islam through moderate approach to attract not only the Muslim majority but also non Muslims," he said when opening the Perak Umno Convention here.

Anwar said Dr Mahathir feared that portrayal of Islam as an extreme religion could cause Muslims themselves to reject the religion and also could lead to negative reaction from others.

This would have a negative effect on country's peace and stability as well as detrimental to the economic growth and eroding the confidence of local and foreign investors to invest in the country, he said.

Anwar said the approach should be wise by understanding the problem at hand with the ability to find amicable solution, not by confrontation because this would be against the Syariah laws which subscribed to peace.

" We need dakwah, not condemnation ... it is better to adopt wise approach which can appeal to all parties and assuring them that the action will not jeopardise their interest," he said.

However, he said, such an action did not mean "we will easily give in because we have our own action by enforcing the laws if, it is proven, that an action has breached existing regulations."

"If there are others who disagree, they should not reject us as though we are among those who oppose the Syariah laws or purposely undermine the hudud and Islamic laws."

Anwar said the action taken by the government had succeeded in making the country an Islamic nation compared to some countries.

Anwar said that in resolving social problems especially relating to the youths "we should not resort to harsh actions because this will make the youths distance themselves from us, making it difficult for us to resolve their problems."

"We also cannot be too liberal and rigid but to exercise wisdom," he added. -- BERNAMA

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