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Anwar-Islam

MAHATHIR SHOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO AIR HIS VIEWS ON ISLAM, SAYS ANWAR

LANGKAWI, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should be given the opportunity to present his views and suggestions especially on the approach relating to the implementation of Syariah laws, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim tonight.

He said this was because it was connected with political system and governance.

Dr Mahathir's views was not a political issue which could simply be passed over but a policy matter, he said when opening the Kedah Umno Convention here.

Anwar said Dr Mahathir with his experience and wisdom as well as statesmanship which world recognised, deserved the opportunity.

"I dare to say this because I have talked with him on several occasions and know what his stand is," he said.

Anwar said he brought up the matter because there had been doubts of late especially of the Prime Minister and other national leaders as to their stand over the implementation of the Syariah laws.

Some had made hasty and negative judgment as though Umno leaders were against the implementation of Syariah laws, he said.

"I wish to state that there was never such an attitude by the country's leaders especially the Prime Minister to question the Syariah laws," he said.

Anwar said that what was done was to find the best way of enforcing the Syariah laws within the context of Malaysia.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, in his speech said Umno members must change their attitude in their political approach for the future interest of party unity and the state's excellence.

They must practice the politics of unity and avoid factionalism and plottings to destroy each other, he said addressing the State Umno convention here.

He said the time had come for them to stop such plottings and divert all efforts for community service.

Sanusi said state Umno members must also be prepared to accept constructive criticisms, without harbouring hatred or ill-will against anyone, and recognise the present achievements, since this would reflect political maturity.

Sanusi who is also the state Umno liaison chief said he wanted party members to play their parts in ensuring that the state economic growth would move in tandem with the robust national development.

The mental, physical and spiritual (Menjaro) and the political, economic and community (Polems) concepts were introduced as the guidelines to steer the state towards achieving the Vision 2020 objectives, he said.

These concepts covered all aspects of community living in the state, with every sector understanding the duties to be carried out to ensure that Kedah would not be left behind when Malaysia achieved its progress status.

--BERNAMA

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