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Anwar-Corruption

NO MORE WARNINGS TO POLITICIANS ON GRAFT, SAYS ANWAR

SANDAKAN, June 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, stressing that there will be no more warnings to politicians about graft, said it is now time to act sternly and remove any leader involved in corruption.

The time has come to rid the party and government of corruption, the Acting Prime Minister said here today.

"All leaders including elected representatives found involved in corruption, do not work for the people, and tarnish the image of the party and country will be dropped including from the list of candidates for the next general election," he said.

Anwar, who is the acting Umno president, said this when opening the the Libaran Umno division's delegates meeting at the Sandakan Community Hall.

He said he had discussed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir on the move to erradicate corruption.

"What is clear is that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir wants to clean up the party and government, beginning from within the party," he said as the 3,000 people in the hall clapped in support.

Anwar also urged everyone to give their full cooperation to bodies such as the Anti-Corruption Agency.

"We only defend those who work and will drop those who don't work, and we know who are the leaders that work and who don't," he said.

Anwar said Malaysia has a good image abroad because of the country's rapid development under a good leadership led by Dr Mahathir, which earned him various international awards such as the Jawaharlal Nehru and King Faisal awards.

"Therefore, we can't allow the country's image to be tarnished by a small group of leaders who are greedy and corrupt and who wish to grab all wealth for themselves," he said.

Anwar said the stern action would not be limited to leaders at the higher level alone but was also aimed at errant party members at the division and branch levels.

"If the people only want action to be taken against top leaders, then those leaders at the division and branch levels must also be changed if they don't work," he said.

On Sabah, Anwar reminded leaders in the state to work hard to bring about development, especially in the rural areas, without discriminating any community.

"We don't want anymore communal politics and anti-Peninsula stance because this only causes Sabah to stay behind," he said.

Instead, all communities in Sabah should be given equal treatment in line with the promise made when Umno entered Sabah, to fight for all the people, he added.

Anwar called on some leaders of the state government who "just seek to grab big projects for themselves" to change their attitude.

"Sabah has a huge potential. Geographically it has greater potential than Japan but only the lederas and the people themselves are preventing the Sabah people from achieving progress.

"It's not people from KL (Kuala Lumpur) who are stealing logs but it's Sabah leaders themselves who are stealing Sabah logs," he said.

Anwar also called on the Bumiputera community in the state to emulate the Chinese by giving greater priority to the education of the children.

He asked all Umno divisions and branches in the state to draw up

programmes to promote the education of children in their areas.

Also present at the ceremony were Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, Sabah Umno chief Datuk Osu Sukam, Libaran Umno division chief Datuk Musa Aman, as well as state cabinet ministers and Barisan Nasional component party leaders.

Speaking at a news conference later after meeting Sabah Umno leaders, Anwar said the government would not bow down to threats in its fight against corruption, including the threat of joining opposition parties.

He said some popular leaders may threaten to join the opposition and even cause the collapse of a state government, but it will not stop the all out war against corruption.

"The anti-corruption campaign is not just aimed at Malay and Umno leaders, but we have started with Umno because it is the biggest party.

"We view the matter seriously and that is why we begin with Umno, the biggest party," he added.

On his meeting with Sabah Umno leaders, Anwar said they had pledged to give their cooperation in the fight against corruption.

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