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Anwar-letter (winding-up)

STOP SLANDERING ME, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, PLEADS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has appealed that he not be slandered anymore through poison-pen letters.

There was so much more to be accomplished on the party's agenda for the good of Umno, the Malays and the nation, said Anwar, who is Deputy Prime Minister and also Finance Minister.

"Enough is enough. We have so much more on the agenda. We must handle the economy carefully, consolidate our finances and strengthen ourselves politically," he said.

Anwar made the impassioned plea when winding-up debate before the close of the three-day 1997 Umno general assembly here.

"Don't debase ourselves to the lowest of all creations. Allah gives us dignity when the Almighty created us," he said.

Anwar chided, tongue-in-cheek, those who had already slandered him through poison-pen letters in the past not to disclaim knowledge of them.

Anwar, said as an ordinary human being, he was saddened by the many poison-pen letters which slandered him.

"They are nothing new. They seem to be endless and of various titles too. But this time, it's getting too much and that's why I lodged a police report on Aug 15," he said.

Anwar said he thanked his family, friends and those who sympathised with him and held special prayers.

"I specially thank the president (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) who asked me to be calm and Azizah (Anwar's wife Datin Seri Wan Azizah Ismail) who tells me 'You should know politics is like that,'" said Anwar.

Anwar said Dr Mahathir had told him that he (Mahathir) himself have been slandered several times including that he had a Chinese wife in Singapore.

Anwar said those who had slandered him through the poison-pen letters were in fact the ones indulging what they had accused him of doing.

"Since they are doing those things that they do, they think I'm doing it too," he said.

Anwar was recently accused in a poison-pen letter of involvement in a sex scandal.-- BERNAMA

ZAB AHH rn