

# Understand the Anwar issue

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FORMER Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Musa Hitam reminded the Chinese community not to ignore the political issues centered on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

In an exclusive interview with Sin Chew Jit Poh, he said political problems among the Malays could be turned into racial issues by irresponsible groups.

Musa urged the Chinese to understand and be concerned about the issue but not to intervene.

He said an Umno issue could affect the political stability of the nation.

Musa voiced disappointment over Prime Minister-Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad's decision not to appoint a deputy prime minister.

The appointment of a deputy prime minister, he said, would strengthen the stability of the government.

He said that without a clear

prime minister, any "happening" from now until the party election would make everybody nervous.

Musa said the Government should meet demonstrators of the reformation movement to find out what they want.

He noted that there was a gap between the traditional Malays and modern Malays who had enjoyed the fruit of economic growth and modernisation.

Unlike traditional Malays who were more humble and obedient, the modern Malays were more confident and dare to question.

Due to a weakened Umno, PAS which was free from internal problems, had grown stronger, he said.

A columnist of China Press wrote that PAS, which had achieved stability in recent years, might win the support of Malays who fell out with Umno.

Anwar, who dominated the

pages of all the Chinese-dailies with colourful photographs of the "star" witnesses.

The newspapers also featured prominently the outfit of personalities such as former actress Ziela Jalil, Normala Mohamad Yusuf and Ummi Hafida Ali.

A columnist of Nanyang Siang Pau and an editorial in Sin Chew Jit Poh welcomed efforts by Malaysia and Singapore to mend ties.

Nanyang Siang Pau frontpaged a picture of the Causeway jammed with cars from Singapore flocking to Malaysia after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad and Sinnaoore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong held talks at the KL International Airport.

Both newspapers said working together would help both countries pull through the crisis on