

'Anwar trying to divert attention'

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BATU PAHAT: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is trying to divert the people's attention from his personal scandal by insinuating the Government would arrest him under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Anwar wanted the people to forget about his scandals and problems by creating political issues.

"The way he keeps on repeating that he may be arrested under the ISA is very provocative and implies that he wants it to happen so that all his personal problems will not be exposed.

"We also feel that he wants the people to rise up and go against the Government if he is ever arrested under the ISA.

"We must not let this happen because we cannot let

one man destroy a nation," he told reporters after addressing members of the Batu Pahat Umno division on the controversy surrounding Anwar's sacking from his government posts and his expulsion from the party.

Abdullah said there was no need to set up a movement to spearhead reformation in Malaysia as Umno itself was such a movement.

He said the decision by some groups to set up a reformation movement implied as if the Government and Umno had failed to do the job.

"These are probably the same people who benefited from reformation policies carried out by the Government such as the New Economic Policy.

"We have not failed in our struggle to better the Malay

community and this can be seen with the emergence of successful businessmen, scientists, and other professionals," he said, adding that the setting up of a reformation movement did not arise before because no one had instigated it.

In Ipoh, Mentri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib has advised the people not to heed Anwar's claims that there was a political conspiracy.

He said Anwar's expulsion was not an individual decision but arrived at through consensus.

"I am confident that the people will understand the Government's stand on the matter," Ramli said after briefing party liaison committee members for 90 minutes on Anwar's sacking.

Bagan Datoh Umno division chief Datuk Ahmad Za-

hid Hamidi was absent.

Ramli said he had directed all Umno division heads to hold meetings with branches to explain the matter.

Ramli said the state Umno liaison committee, the state Wanita and Youth would collectively pledge support for Dr Mahathir.

State Umno Wanita chief Ainon Khariyah Datuk Mohd Abas said its members would hold a signature campaign to show their support for the party president.

"The letter will be sent soon as proof of our undivided support to the Prime Minister," she said.