

Get the facts first,^{3/} Ghani tells Abim

5/10.9.98

Abide by state's stand, Perak Umno told

JOHOR BARU: The Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (Abim) has been advised to wait for the full disclosure of evidence against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim before making a stand.

Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said Abim members should not arbitrarily find Anwar innocent or guilty.

"Abim may not have access to all the evidence against Anwar and they may be making assumptions.

"Even the Prime Minister did not believe the allegations at first but changed his opinion after studying all the evidence," he said here yesterday.

Abim had come out strongly in support of Anwar, who was also

sacked as Finance Minister and expelled from Umno last week, saying it would heed Anwar's rally for reformation.

Abim had also claimed several Islamic countries supported Anwar.

Ghani said the state Umno liaison committee would explain the allegations against Anwar to the grassroots.

In Ipoh, Perak Umno chief Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib advised all state party members to abide by their earlier decision to support Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad over the decision to sack Anwar from the Cabinet and party.

"Since Perak Umno has taken a stand and unequivocally supported the Prime Minister and the

president, no Umno committee member should oppose the decision made, by doing the opposite," he told reporters here yesterday.

Ramli was asked to comment on the position of Perak Umno Youth information chief Hamdan Tahir who addressed a gathering at Anwar's house on Tuesday night.

Ramli said that he would find out if any Perak Umno member was at Anwar's house and would advise them that they should abide by the stand taken by the state party Wanita and Youth wings.

Ramli also advised Umno Youth chief Datuk Zahid Hamidi to do the same.