

Nation and²³ party come first, says Aishah

KUALA LUMPUR: Veteran Wanita Umno leader Tan Sri Aishah Ghani urged Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to be responsible and put the country and party's interest before his own.

"It is a *permintaan yang sangat tidak wajar* (totally unreasonable request)," she said in response to Anwar's call for the Prime Minister to step down.

"Now is not the time for this. I don't see any good coming from pushing the country into chaos.

"As it is, we are already facing economic difficulties. Why make matters worse?

"I appeal to Anwar *tolonglah jangan hancurkan parti dan negara* (please don't destroy the party and the country)," she said.

Umno supreme council member Datuk Ibrahim Ali said Anwar had lost his rational thinking, was utterly confused and wanted to *lepas geram* (vent his frustrations).

"Who is he (Anwar) anyway to make such a call? It is the act of a frustrated and desperate person.

On the RM200mil Prime Minister's official residence at Putrajaya which Anwar had questioned as being too lavish, Ibrahim Ali said it was Anwar, the Finance Minister then, who had allocated the budget for it.

"Was it because Anwar probably thought then that he was going to stay there as Prime Minister (but) now that things did not work out the way he wanted it to be, he wants to instigate the *rakyat*," he said.

On the same issue, Aishah said the residence did not belong to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad but was the official residence for the Malaysian Prime Minister.

"And if it was fated, it could even have been Anwar who would have stayed there," she said.

In **Johor Baru**, Johor leaders chided Anwar for asking Dr Mahathir to step down.

Johor Baru Umno division chief Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad said it was very unrealistic for Anwar to make such a call.

He said Anwar had shown the world that he was echoing the calls made by the foreign press which wanted Dr Mahathir to step down.

Shahrir said Anwar's actions towards Umno and Dr Mahathir after his sacking from the Cabinet and the party had shocked many Malaysians, especially party members.

"Not only does he attack Umno and Dr Mahathir, he even teams up with the DAP and uses DAP platforms to talk to the people," he said.