

# Anwar 'did not object to KLIA'

27

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SEREMBAN: Allegations made by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on various issues aired over CNBC should be reason enough for him to resign from the party and government earlier, if he was a leader with principles.

However, Anwar stayed on and did not even voice any objections, particularly his alleged objections over the development of the KL International Airport.

Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said Anwar was the chairman of the Cabinet committee for the KL International Airport and had not mentioned at meetings any of the allegations he made.

"I was a member of the Cabinet committee and Anwar's allegations which he raised about the airport were never brought up at the meetings," he said after the state religious council meeting yesterday.

"If ever he was unhappy with certain aspects of the development, he should have raised them... but he did not," he added.

Anwar, he said, should behave like a gentleman and not utter wild allegations after he was out of the Government.

"If he was a principled man, he should have raised his objections then and hand in his resignation based on those factors," he said.

Isa was replying to Anwar's allegations made against the Government and Umno in a CNBC broadcast.

On Australian Prime Minister John Howard's claim that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is authori-

tarian and dictatorial, Isa said Howard was merely using the issue for his own political mileage.

"Howard wants to gain political mileage out of the attack so that he can project himself as a democratic man," he said.

In Tumpat, Kelantan Umno liaison committee deputy chief Datuk Annuar Musa said Anwar's sacking would not weaken the party in the state.

He said members had proved themselves to be loyal and supporters of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Umno members in the state have been through worse than this," he said, referring to Umno crisis of 1987.

He said Kelantan Umno members had to make a more difficult choice then because Dr Mahathir was facing one of their own, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

"With due respect to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is he compared with Dr Mahathir or even Kuli? (Tengku Razaleigh)" he said after meeting the district Umno leaders here yesterday.

Annuar said he was not worried about PAS exploiting the sacking of Anwar from the Government and party.

He said PAS leaders would be seen as hypocrites if they defended Anwar now because they had often accused Anwar of corruption.

Annuar said the detention under the Internal Security Act of Tumpat and Pasir Puteh Umno division chiefs, Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar and Kamaruddin Mohamed Noor respectively, would not affect support for Umno.