

PENANG SUPPORT

5/2.8.98

Anwar: State Umno to pick Dr M for top post

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Anwar: I am indebted to Dr M

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nate Dr Mahathir as president. 5/2.8.98

Anwar also said he had repeatedly informed the Umno supreme council about the "impossible and baseless rumours" that he would take on Dr Mahathir for the top post.

"If we continue to listen to rumours from those trying to poison our minds, it will affect the party and the people.

"I am personally indebted to Dr Mahathir

and I will continue with my struggles in the par-tv," he said and, in jest, & minded Umno members not to forget to nominate him for the No. 2 post.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir thanked Anwar for his support and declaration that all 11 divisions would nominate him (Dr Mahathir) for the post.

"I am thankful that the divisions are not nominating other names although it may be less democratic. Kalau demokratik pun teruk juga! (We are also

damned if we are too democratic.)

"Also, don't forget to nominate someone who wants to be deputy," he quipped.

Responding to a question at a press conference after attending the state Umno liaison meeting on whether Anwar's reiteration would put to rest rumours of a possible contest, Dr Mahathir said: "I hope so. But I know some people, whatever you say, will keep on harping on it, including the press."

PENANG: All 11 Umno divisions in Penang will nominate Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the party president's post next year, in an open declaration announced by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

This is the first time a state has made an open stand on the party leadership and Anwar, who is also Penang Umno liaison committee chairman, expressed hope that his "open statement" would quash all rumours involving the two leaders.

Anwar, in reiterating his support for Dr Mahathir, said it could not be disputed that there were attempts by certain groups to spread rumours and poison-pen letters claiming that he would challenge the top post.

"Compared with the Prime Minister, I am just a student. I want to tell everyone that I cannot fight

my teacher, what more challenge someone who is more like a father to me?

"I also want to make it very clear, especially in front of all my friends from Penang, that I give my full loyalty and support to Dr Mahathir.

"It is important for everyone to hear this properly and I hope this will quash all rumours once and for all," he said before some 2,000 Umno members who witnessed the opening ceremony of the new Menara Umno building by Dr Mahathir here yesterday.

Anwar noted that he and the Prime Minister sometimes differed on certain issues but that did not mean there was a split between them.

However, he added, both of them agreed on common issues like finding a solution to revive the economy.

Anwar said he had discussed the matter with all division heads in Penang and they had unanimously agreed to nomi-

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