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Action against those who breach rules

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Action can be taken against Umno members who breach the party's constitution or Code of Ethics including those found to be supporting Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his so-called reformation movement.

Party secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said party members must abide by the party's Code of Ethics, which spells out the conduct and behaviour expected of party members.

Sabbaruddin said Umno members who violate the party constitution or Code of Ethics can be subjected to the following penalties under Article 18.6 - warning, suspension, being barred from contesting party posts or running as a candidate in State and general elections for a duration to be determined by the Supreme Council, dismissal from the party, or other punishments deemed appropriate and in line with the constitution.

"If it is clear that they are Anwar's supporters, this means that they do not support the party's decision," he told reporters after launching the "Lipton Teh-Tarik and Menebar Roti Canai Planta" competition.

Sabbaruddin who is the Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister said this when asked the kind of action which could be taken against Umno members found to be supporting Anwar and his so-called reformation movement.

On the charges against Anwar's adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan and his friend and former speechwriter, Dr Munawar A. Anees, Sabbaruddin said this proved that there is no political conspiracy to destroy his political career as alleged by Anwar as they had pleaded guilty to the charges against them in court.

Anwar had claimed that the confessions of the two men were false and had been coerced.

The two were sentenced to six months' jail each by the Sessions Court yesterday after they pleaded guilty to committing acts of gross indecency by allowing themselves to be sodomised by Anwar.

"There is no reason why they should confess to something that is going to be very damaging to themselves. It is up to the people to decide whether to believe the allegations made by Anwar," Sabbaruddin said.

In Klang, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the guilty plea by Sukma and Munawar further justified Anwar's sacking.

"What more clear proof does one need than that of two people who were involved with Anwar, pleading guilty in court to being sodomised by Anwar himself?"

Abu Hassan said the guilty plea was enough for people to understand why Anwar was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and deputy Umno president.

"I hope the public will come to their senses especially those followers and supporters of Anwar and stop supporting him," he told reporters after launching the "Expo Meru 1998" held in Meru.

In Rompin, Umno supreme council member Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said Anwar should not question the court's decision on Sukma and Munawar.

He said the two had pleaded guilty to the offences and that the courts had been fair. He was speaking to reporters after opening the RM1.8 million Mara Arcade here today.

Asked on Anwar's challenge to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to step down, Mustapa said Anwar is no longer an Umno member and thus had no right to challenge anyone in the party, especially the president.

In Malacca, another Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar Syed Jaafar said Anwar should go to Mecca to `cleanse' himself.

"He should not get carried away by his emotion and the charges. He should instead spend time in Mecca to seek help from the Almighty."

Speaking after opening the State Malaysian Association of Youth Clubs in Durian Tunggal, Syed Hamid said the guilty plea by Anwar's aides only proved the charges of sexual misconduct against Anwar were not fabricated as claimed.

He said the two cases also disproved that Anwar's claim that there was a political conspiracy of the highest level to destroy his political career by means of character assassination.

Syed Hamid added Anwar should stop his so-called reformation movement but prepare to defend himself in court.

"The PM acted based on solid and concrete proof and the pleas by Anwar's aides just told everything," he said adding it was too bad that Anwar could not accept the Sessions Court's decision.

In Ipoh, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said no one has the right to ask Dr Mahathir to step down.

If there was such a call he said, it would only come from those who did not contribute to the development of the country.

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