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Anwar-Reaction

ALL ROUND SUPPORT FOR ANWAR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

PULAU PINANG, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Umno leaders said today the early announcement by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to nominate Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the party presidency will put to rest speculations that Anwar will vie for the post.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said the announcement would put a stop to talk that Anwar would challenge Dr Mahathir in next year's party election.

He said Pulau Pinang might be the first state to make such an announcement officially and he believed other states would follow suit.

" Anwar's announcement this time will have a strong impact as it is made officially in this state," he said.

Anwar reiterated today that he will not contest the Umno presidency in the party's election next year when speaking at the opening of the Pulau Pinang Umno building "Menara Umno" by Dr Mahathir at Jalan Macalister.

Anwar, who is Umno Deputy President and also Pulau Pinang Umno Liaison chief, said all divisions in the state would nominate Dr Mahathir to retain his post.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Anwar's decision not to vie for the Number One post must be respected by all party members.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said Anwar had made a serious statement, making it clear that he would not contest for the post.

He did not want anyone to pit him against Dr Mahathir, he said.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad said Anwar's announcement was the stand of the Pulau Pinang Umno to retain the positions of the two leaders.

" Hence, there is no reason for anyone to talk about the challenge for the president's post as Anwar has reiterated his stand seriously," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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