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Najib-Umno

ANWAR ATTEMPTED TO INITIATE A REVOLUTION, NOT A REFORMATION, SAYS NAJIB

JOHOR BAHRU, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Umno vice president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has attempted to initiate a revolution and not a reformation as claimed, following his dismissal from the Cabinet and party.

"What he actually attempted to initiate is a revolution and not a reformation. He has rejected everything...whether it be Umno, the government, the police force, the judiciary...everything," he said when opening a leadership course organised by the Tebrau Umno division, in Pasir Gudang, near here.

Najib, who is Education Minister, said that if Anwar is a leader who loves the party, he would not have done what he did.

He said that Anwar's conspiracy theory was unfounded as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad previously had full trust in him.

Before Anwar's dismissal, Najib said, Dr Mahathir had offered not to proceed with the case against him if he were to resign as he did not want to embarrass Anwar's family.

"Instead, Anwar refused. Tun Daim (Zainuddin) had also offered him the same advice but Anwar chose not to resign although he (Anwar) knew the choice he made will be a tough one because he wanted to become Prime Minister," he said.

Najib said that when the case against him was discussed at the Supreme Council meeting, Anwar was given ample opportunity to defend himself.

He called on Umno members not to be emotional over the matter but to be open-minded because the truth would eventually prevail.

"We do not want the case to cause rifts in Umno with people seizing the opportunity to topple leaders at the divisional level," said Najib, who is also joint chairman of the Umno Management and Disciplinary Committee.

Speaking to reporters later, Najib said that some Anwar supporters might not have been convinced yet and were dissatisfied over what had happened.

"We believe that after having heard the explanation and following the court trial, they will support the actions of the government.

"We hope they will not be overly emotional but be more rational and open-minded. They should abide by the party's decision," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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