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`Anwar has made an about-turn'

JELI, Sun. - Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed today said the Government was very disappointed when sacked Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim reversed his standpoint against government policies almost overnight.

He said in a matter of days after the expulsion, Anwar changed his views against certain issues, particularly those involving national policies and the country's system.

When Anwar was still in the Government, he was very vocal in defending government's policies, its system and the implementation of those policies, he said.

"In the past, he sometimes was the number one person who defended the Government.

"But only because of his expulsion, which is due to his personal problem, he has taken a 360-degree turn in his standpoint against the Government," he told reporters at the Bukit Nangka Umno office.

Mustapa, who is also Second Finance Minister, said the speed at which Anwar's standpoint was reversed had also posed a question mark among the people.

"We hope that he becomes more rational and stop his plan to explain to the people as this may further affect his position," he said.

Mustapa also said the country's present system, including the judicial system, had the capability to deliver justice to Anwar.

"He does not have to go here and there to defend himself. But he chooses to divert the people's attention by using other unrelated issues," he said.

In Penang, State Umno deputy chairman Datuk Shariff Omar said today certain quarters had tried to sabotage its meeting called on Sept 6 to discuss Anwar's expulsion.

He said he had been told by some divisional leaders that they had received phone calls by some people who persuaded them not to attend the meeting.

Speaking after sending off Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, who left for the United States on a week-long mission to woo tourists and hi-tech investors to Penang, Shariff said he knew those behind this attempt but declined to identify them.

In Petaling Jaya, Umno supreme council member Datuk Ibrahim Ali said Anwar's so-called reformation movement was aimed at overthrowing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by creating disorder.

"He (Anwar) is not fighting for any social justice as he keeps on repeating things which are not substantial and trying to divert the public's view from the actual issue."

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