

01/09/1998

Anwar: I'm not resigning from any post

Noor Adzman Baharuddin

BUKIT MERTAJAM, Mon. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today said he is not resigning from any Government or political post.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a closed-door meeting with Permatang Pauh Umno division members here, Anwar said it was not true that he had tendered his resignation.

"I will not step down and it is also not true that I have tendered my resignation," he said.

Anwar, who is also Permatang Pauh Umno division chairman, was asked on matters discussed at the meeting, attended by more than 100 party members, including the division's Youth and Wanita members.

He said the meeting was held to explain to the members, on rumours that he would resign from all Government and political posts soon.

Describing the rumour mongers as tukang karut (a term used for the lead singer of a Boria group), Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, said he would not entertain anyone with crooked views or issues which were raised by "those who are not very responsible."

"I told them I will continue working and that I will not retreat.

"Also, I have heard on numerous occasions claims that I have tendered my resignation, but it is not true," he said.

Asked if he was under any political pressure, he said: "Do I look like I am under pressure?"

Meanwhile, Permatang Pauh Umno division Youth chief Dr Abdul Rahim Ghouse said the rumours, which have circulated within the society and affecting Government and political leaders, were the work of a highly-networked conspiracy.

"The Government and Umno should take stern action against the rumour mongers and the mastermind.

"They should not be allowed to move about freely. Where are the authorities who are supposed to take action against them?"

He said this when asked to comment on the division Youth's call for Anwar not to give in to any demand for his resignation from all Government and political posts.

He also claimed that the book, "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tak Boleh Jadi Perdana Menteri", was still being circulated freely, including at mosques.

"All Umno members, including veterans, should be united and support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy."

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