

18 JUN 1998

Umno-Unity

ANWAR'S SPEECH CAN FURTHER ENHANCE PARTY UNITY, SAY UMNO LEADERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Umno top leaders said today that the call by Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to party members to unite behind the party leadership can further enhance unity in the party.

They felt that Anwar's speech at the simultaneous opening of the Umno Youth and Wanita Umno general assemblies stressed on the importance of political stability and economic recovery.

Umno vice president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that Anwar's speech emphasised on efforts that should be made to revive the nation's economy.

"This is because if we fail, it will adversely affect the nation," he told reporters when asked to comment on the speech given by Anwar, who is Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

Anwar had said, among others, that "Umno should be solidly united with our leaders headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir (Mohamad) to face this acute situation."

Abdullah, who is Foreign Minister, said: "We (Umno) should not be distracted by actions that will complicate and affect efforts towards economic recovery."

He said that the government under Dr Mahathir had displayed a very strong political will to revive the economy without the involvement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Abdullah said that the issue of nepotism raised by Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had not created tension "but there are parties simply out to create tension".

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, who is Selangor Umno liaison chief, said that Umno members must give their solid support to the party leadership in its efforts to overcome the economic crisis.

"We must have rapport so that we can understand the leadership's aspirations," he said.

He said that the task to revive the economy was not only the responsibility of the leaders but also the party leaders.

Umno information chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor said that Anwar's speech should be translated into action as it outlined matters that could be used as a guide in the economic and political fields.

"His speech was appropriate to the situation in the party," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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