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Sabbaruddin-Gallery

ANWAR'S SUPPORTERS SHOULD NOT HAVE VANDALISED GALLERY, SAYS SABBARUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik today expressed regret over the actions of former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's supporters who made the Galeri Perjuangan Umno the target of their rioting last Sunday.

"I don't know why they are angry with the gallery...this rioting should not have occurred because the gallery does not belong to (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad)," he told reporters, here.

He said the gallery which showcased the history of Umno's struggle since its establishment in 1946 belonged to the party and had sentimental value.

Sabbaruddin, who took reporters on a tour of the gallery at Menara Datuk Onn, Putra World Trade Centre, said about half of the 81 exhibits were either broken or torn by these irresponsible people.

On the total loss, he said it was difficult to ascertain because the value of each exhibit would depend on the availability of a replacement.

The chief security guard on duty that night, Rabu Sahak, said that over 1,000 people converged on the gallery at about 7.10pm, destroying the exhibits despite being asked by the security guards not to do so.

"We could not do anything because of the large number and there were only two or three of us," he said.

He said a police report was lodged the same night and the gallery had been closed for repairs.

-- BERNAMA

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