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`Don't allow mosques to be misused'

Annie Freeda Cruetz

SHAH ALAM, Wed. - The Selangor Government today reminded all religious heads to ensure their mosques are not utilised by any quarters to "ignite" the reformation movement called by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said if the State Government came across any religious heads involved with the reformation movement and who allowed the mosques to be utilised for the purpose, they would be sacked.

"We hope the nazirs (religious heads) will be responsible and only allow authorised speakers to give ceramahs in their mosques.

"If we find that the speakers had also attempted to spread or speak of the reformation movement, then the nazir will be pulled up for questioning and if he fails to give a proper explanation, he will be sacked."

Abu Hassan said this to reporters after witnessing the signing of the memorandum of understanding between MSNS Holdings Sdn Bhd and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in health and sports science expertise here today.

Also present were MSNS Holding Sdn Bhd chairman of the board of directors Datuk Zainal Dahalan and UKM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Anuwar Ali.

Abu Hassan, who is also an Umno supreme council member, said the State Government would not allow the reformation movement to spread in Selangor through the mosques in the State.

"Mosques and suraus are to be used for religious activities, not for political purposes," he added.

Asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's explanation on the sacking of Anwar to Umno leaders from all party levels at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday, Abu Hassan said the explanation and reasons were stated very clearly and there were no further doubts on the drastic measure taken by him.

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