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`Give Anwar fair trial if charged'

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - International Movement for a Just World president Dr Chandra Muzaffar today said former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim should be accorded a fair trial if he is charged.

"It is important to emphasise this, given prevailing perceptions of the judiciary, reinforced by the recent (DAP deputy secretary-general) Lim Guan Eng verdict," he said in a statement.

He also said it was a pity Dr Mahathir had not given any reason for Anwar's expulsion.

Chandra said the public and Umno members were entitled to know why Dr Mahathir had to take such a "drastic decision".

Instead of providing an official explanation, he said the media was indulging in an orgy of lies and half truths, designed to assassinate Anwar's character.

"Unsubstantiated allegations made in affidavits which have not been subjected to the judicial process should never be manipulated by the media for ulterior motives," he said.

Chandra said by conniving in such a despicable act, the Mahathir-controlled Malaysian media had disgraced itself. "It is a vile example of trial and execution by the media."

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