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Malott-Motive

MALOTT'S VISIT ON ANWAR'S WIFE SUSPICIOUS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Suspicion reigns over the actual motive of US Ambassador to Malaysia John R. Malott's visit on Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail at her residence in Bukit Damansare yesterday.

Although the call on Dr Wan Azizah, the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, is said to be a "private visit," there could be other motives behind it.

Segambut Umno division youth chief Abdul Hadi Mohd Zam said although Malott called on Dr Wan Azizah to convey his sympathy, his presence showed as though there was a pact which gave rise to suspicion.

"Anwar's problems are an individual's problem. There should be no interference by anyone on his case. It looks like outsiders are now using Anwar's court case to assess (our judicial system)," he told Bernama.

There is no reason for people from outside Malaysia to interfere in the matter, he said.

" Their interference showed as though they don't trust the government administration and independence of the Malaysian judiciary," said Abdul Hadi, who is also treasurer of the Federal Territory Umno Youth.

Malott spent about an hour in Anwar's house yesterday in Bukit Damansara. No statements were issued on his private meeting with Dr Wan Azizah.

Commenting on the visit, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday Malott could visit Dr Wan Azizah provided "he does not lie about it (meeting)."

Wanita MIC chief Puan Sri Senator Sarasa Pasamanickam said though Malott said his visit was on his personal capacity, he is still an ambassador, who represented the United States in Malaysia.

"His visit will definitely attract attention," she told Bernama.

Whatever personal feelings Malott might have on Anwar's case, he should keep them in abeyance and wait for the court decision.

Anwar, who was sacked from the Cabinet on Sept 2 and from Umno a day later, faces 10 charges of corrupt practices and unnatural sex.

The High Court had fixed Nov 2 to 14 to hear the case.

Cuepacs secretary-general N. Siva Subramaniam said Malaysia, being a democratic country, could not prevent such visits provided they were not abused and contravened the country's laws.

He said outsiders would always seize the opportunity to interfere in economic and political issues of a country.

He also urged civil servants not to join hands with the outsiders to topple the government as the country's instability could affect their career and future.

Government employees should distant themselves from such undesirable elements and must play their role to maintain the prevailing peace and harmony in the country, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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