

01/10/1998

Mohamed Rahmat's charges serious, says Abu Hassan

KUALA SELANGOR, Wed. - Selangor Umno views the allegation made by party supreme council member Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat that some 90 Umno division heads were believed to be on the payroll of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his cronies as serious.

Selangor Umno liaison chairman Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said if Mohamed had sufficient evidence to prove his allegations, he must submit it to the party management and disciplinary committee for further study before taking the matter to the Umno supreme council.

"This is a serious allegation and by right it should never have happened especially with the party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stressing on stern action against anyone involved in money politics," he said.

Abu Hassan was commenting on a statement by Mohamed two days ago that the 90 divisions had been used in an attempt to topple Dr Mahathir.

Mohamed had also said some Umno leaders had been paid monthly allowances of between RM5,000 and RM10,000 and some divisions were allocated between RM1 million and RM2 million to carry out subversive activities in Umno.

Abu Hassan who is also an Umno supreme council member, said if the allegation was true that Anwar who, as Umno deputy president then, had paid the division heads concerned to topple Dr Mahathir, it was serious.

"This must be exposed openly and measures need to be taken to prevent such things from happening in Umno in future."

Asked if Umno divisions in Selangor were also involved in this, Abu Hassan said he was investigating and if established, their names would be submitted to the Umno management and disciplinary committee for further action.

Abu Hassan said he had already submitted the names of 12 Umno members involved in Anwar's reformation movement in Selangor to Umno headquarters yesterday.

The Umno members, including a few branch chairmen, were from Umno divisions in Petaling Jaya Utara, Petaling Jaya Selatan, Kapar, Kuala Selangor and Tanjung Karang.

In Kuantan, Pahang Umno chief Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob, however, said he did not see a situation where party divisions in the State had to seek outside funding.

"I do not believe that this is taking place because the divisions are provided with financial assistance by the State Umno," he said.

"I do not think that statement implicates any of the 11 divisions in the State. Nevertheless, I will look into it," he told reporters after a meeting with a delegation from the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia led by its president, Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli.

In Malacca, State Umno chief Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin expressed hope that Umno leaders would not make confusing statements which could worsen party unity.

Referring to Mohamad's statement, Abu Zahar said it was unwise to make such allegations without having proper evidence.

"Such speculation would result in further questions being asked by party members and therefore, affect party unity and stability.

"Therefore, such confusing statements should not be made unless, there is ample proof," he told reporters after launching the Surya Printing Factory at Bukit Katil today.

Meanwhile, 20 of the 46 Umno branches in the Kota Melaka division want the supreme council and party disciplinary and management committee to investigate the possible involvement of Anwar in its last divisional elections.

Alai Assemblyman and State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Nasir Manap, who spoke on behalf of the branch heads, said an inquiry must also be carried out against the present (Kota Melaka) division head, Datuk Amid Nordin.

They also called on Mohamed to disclose whether the Kota Melaka division was one of the 90 he named that were supported by the former Finance Minister.

The supreme council was also urged to conduct thorough investigation and take action against certain divisional leaders who, Nasir claimed, had organised Anwar's reformation talk at Ayer Keroh on Sept 13.

They also hoped that the party headquarters would investigate the dirty tactics used which resulted in the Tanjung Nibong and Pernu Tengah branches disallowed from holding their annual general meeting prior to the divisional elections in February.

The branches which want investigations to be carried out are Kolam Mata Kuching, Ujong Pasir, Permatang Pasir, Permatang Punggor, Permatang Pasir Tengah, Bukit Punggor, Pernu Tengah, Pengkalan Jajar, Tambak Sebelong, Tanjung Nibong, Kampung Lapan, Bakar Batu, Kampung Labang, Padang Temu, Bandar Hilir, Solok Balik Bukit, Kampung Atap, Jalan Panjang, Durian Daun and Bukit Tempurung.

(END)