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More leaders support Anwar's sacking

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from all Government positions and his expulsion from Umno received support from more leaders today, mostly Wanita leaders.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said leaders had to have high moral values because they were examples to society.

She said leaders with low morals could be used by the unscrupulous for their own interests.

In Alor Star, Kedah Wanita Umno said its members were uneasy over the move by Anwar to launch a reform movement.

Its head, Fatimah Ismail, said Anwar's actions would only disrupt the unity among the people who were now standing strongly behind Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The Kedah Wanita Umno meeting expressed unanimous support for Anwar's sacking as Deputy Prime Minister and concluded that it was based on strong evidence," she said.

In Malacca, all five divisional Wanita Umno leaders pledged their support for the supreme council's decision to expel Anwar from Umno.

Its secretary, Rabiyah Md Ali said the decision was made by leaders from the Selandar, Alor Gajah, Kota Melaka, Jasin and Batu Berendam Umno divisions.

"The Wanita movement will also explain the matter to the grassroots."

In Kuala Terengganu, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said although it was difficult for Dr Mahathir to reveal why Anwar was sacked, moral misconduct was strong reason enough.

"Dr Mahathir is not a person who likes to reveal in public the immoral activities of others. His explanation for the expulsion of Anwar was sufficient to convince Umno members.

"I believe Umno members are more united now than before and the party is stronger," he said.

In Kuantan, Pahang Umno gave its full backing to the supreme council's decision to expel Anwar.

Its chief, Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob, said the decision was made at a special State Umno liaison committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday night.

"Before this, we have also expressed our undivided support to Dr Mahathir on Anwar's sacking from the Government," he said.

He said the State Umno's information machinery would be mobilised to explain to party members why Pahang Umno supported the decision of the supreme council and reasons behind the sacking of Anwar.

In Kota Kinabalu, the Sabah Umno Liaison Committee pledged support for the supreme council's decision to expel Anwar.

Its chief, Datuk Osu Sukam, said it was now the duty of State Umno leaders to explain why Anwar was expelled.

"It is the duty of State Umno leaders to ensure members at the grassroots are told why such action had to be taken against Anwar," he said.

He also said Anwar's expulsion would not cause disunity among Umno members in Sabah.

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