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Syed Hamid-Anwar

DON'T USE NGOS FOR SELF-INTEREST, ANWAR TOLD

KOTA TINGGI, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar today asked former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim not to use non-governmental organisations and opposition parties for his self-interest.

He said Anwar must remember that he was no longer a social activist and did not represent anyone in the government except he himself.

" This is something he must realise...I advise him to be calm and seek GOD's help to free himself from the problems he is facing now," he told reporters after addressing a leader-with-the-people gathering here today.

As a political party, Umno did not pass judgment on Anwar but the affidavits filed in court were serious and brought shame to the country, Anwar and his family.

" We gave him the opportunity to quit the party but he refused, hence he was expelled," said Syed Hamid, who is Defence Minister.

He said Anwar should not arouse the people's feelings by telling them half-truths about the allegations levelled at him and questioning the country's system of justice in his speeches and ceramahs.

" Does he not love the government and Umno which gave him a very high position in government and party," he said.

Syed Hamid said Anwar's claims that he had been victimised by certain groups did not arise at all as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made the decision to sack him based on facts which were also known to the public.

He said Dr Mahathir had to act fast to ensure the country and Umno were save and to redeem the country from its economic doldrums before the people lost confidence in the country's leadership.

He also advised Anwar to give priority to the country's interests and let the court decide on the allegations brought against him.

In his speech, Syed Hamid urged the people not to blow up Anwar's expulsion issue by adding untruths to it.

He said Dr Mahathir actually loved Anwar very much as he was his protege to take over the country's helm.

He said Dr Mahathir had given Anwar wide exposures as the future leader of this country.

-- BERNAMA

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