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Shahidan-Anwar

NO POLITICAL SPEECHES AT MOSQUES, SAYS PERLIS MB

KANGAR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- The Perlis government does not allow anyone to use mosques, suraus or areas in their vicinity to make political speeches as this would defile these holy places of worship for Muslims.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said anyone intending to give ceramah, religious or political, had to obtain permission from the police or state Islamic Affairs Department.

Speaking at a news conference at his official residence, here, he said he did not see how former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim could go around the states to explain his dismissals from the cabinet and Umno to the people.

Anwar, who was expelled from the party a day after he was stripped of his posts as deputy prime minister and finance minister, had said that he would conduct a nationwide tour to explain to the people to counter the charges against him.

Shahidan said that if Anwar came on a political ticket, he could no longer use his "friends" in Umno because he had been expelled from the party and could only use an opposition ticket.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Terengganu Umno liaison chairman Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad advised Anwar to be patient and calm and not to be ruled by emotion in his actions.

As a Muslim, Anwar should know his responsibilities to God, himself and the country as required by Islam, he told a news conference after chairing a state Umno liaison committee meeting last night.

The meeting was to explain to Umno members and elected representatives in the state Anwar's removal from the cabinet and expulsion from the party.

He said Anwar should think carefully before taking any action that could undermine stability in the country and party, especially during the current economic slowdown.

He said the meeting also unanimously supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed in whatever action he took to ensure peace and stability in the country and party.

He also said that the state Umno would send a 72-member delegation to Kuala Lumpur for a briefing on the matter by Dr Mahathir while all the state Umno committee members would explain the issue to the grassroots.

On the use of mosques in the state, Wan Mokhtar said anyone intending to lecture at the mosques must obtain the permission of the state Islamic Affairs Department.

He said PAS was also not allowed to use the mosques for political talks and action would be taken against those who abuse the use of mosques.

-- BERNAMA

RIS SBS JK