

29/10/1998

Patten exploiting Anwar issue to gain popularity, says Sanusi

ALOR STAR, Wed. - Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said former Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten was supporting Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim because Patten wanted to exploit the issue.

"He was not a popular politician in Britain and that's why he was exiled and made the Governor of Hong Kong."

Sanusi said he could understand why Patten had picked the issue of Anwar's sacking and subsequent detention to gain popularity.

"Being a conservative who loves colonialism, Patten was actually given the chance of having to hand over the British colony of Hong Kong to China," Sanusi said when commenting on an article written by Patten in the London Independent newspaper on Oct 11 calling on the international finance community to throw its weight behind Anwar.

In his article, Patten called Anwar the epitome of "all that the global economy wants of a finance minister in a developing country".

As for Patten's opinion of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Sanusi said it did not matter because "Patten is seeking popularity out of Anwar's issue".

"I think Patten is more interested in himself than anybody else," he said after chairing the State Exco meeting at Wisma Darul Aman today.

Sanusi said Patten had forgotten that Anwar had a lot of friends in the West because he had been Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

"He was placed in those positions by the Prime Minister and Anwar should have been thankful to Dr Mahathir just like Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who is popular in the international arena.

"Abdullah is thankful to Dr Mahathir for making him the Foreign Minister which made him popular overseas.

"Therefore, Patten must realise that Anwar was popular merely because of the posts given to him by Dr Mahathir," he added.

(END)