

07/09/1998

Penang Umno backs Supreme Council's decision to expel Anwar

PENANG, Sun. - The Penang Umno Liaison Committee today backed the decision of the Umno Supreme Council to expel its deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was also Penang Umno chairman, from the party.

The state's deputy chairman Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar, who chaired the one-and-a-half hour meeting at Menara Umno, told reporters the meeting also gave total support to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and backed his every move to revitalise the economy.

Mohd Shariff, who is also Tasek Gelugor division head, said there was no protest or difference of opinion from any of those present on the decision taken. Each division was invited to send seven representatives, including the wanita and youth heads, for the meeting. Penang Umno has 11 divisions. However, two of the divisions, Bagan and Bukit Bendera, did not send any representative for the meeting. Bagan division chairman is Datuk Abdul Latiff Mirasa and Bukit Bendera chairman is Datuk Ahmad Ismail, who is believed to be busy with his son's wedding in Johor.

Also present was Umno vice-president and Kepala Batas division head Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. Other division heads present were Bayan Baru head Omar Fauzal, Nibong Tebal head Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdullah, Jelutong leader Datuk Rashid Ismail and Balik Pulau chief Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya.

The Permatang Pauh division was represented by its deputy chairman Datuk Ahmad Saad. The heads of the Tanjung and Bukit Mertajam divisions - Ahmad Ibni Hajar and Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad respectively - were absent. They were represented by their division deputy chairmen Capt (R) Mohh Noor Abdul Ariff and Datuk Musa Fadzir respectively.

Dr Ibrahim had earlier sent a fax to the secretariat that he was busy with Commonwealth Games preparations but that he would abide by all decisions taken.

Other notable absentees were State Umno secretary Azhar Ibrahim and State Umno youth chief Dr Abdul Rahim Ghouse. It is learnt that Azhar's son is getting engaged today.

State Umno youth secretary Norazman Othman and three division youth heads were present. Also there was State Umno wanita head Sharifah Aminah Syed Mohamed.

Mohd Shariff, who briefed the meeting about the latest developments in Umno, told reporters that gatherings would soon be held in the various divisions to inform members of the reasons for the expulsion of Anwar.

Meanwhile, Norazman said the State Umno Youth would meet soon to make an official stand on the expulsion. He added that in their individual capacities as heads of youth wings in Umno divisions, he and all others supported the Supreme Council's stand.

* SEE PICTURE ON P2

(END)