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People should allow court to decide Anwar's case, says Isa

SEREMBAN, Mon. - Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad today said members of the national and State Umno Youth movements fully understood the reasons behind the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his decision.

He said the Umno Youth was aware that Dr Mahathir had given Anwar enough chances and that the decision to sack him was taken with the full consent of all members.

The national and State Umno Youth were functioning effectively though national Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and State Umno Youth chief Ruslan Kassim had been detained under the Internal Security Act.

"We can no longer have any sympathy or emotions for Anwar or his supporters as they showed no respect or gratitude to the party or the Government with which they had served for many years," he said.

Mohamad Isa was speaking to members of the State Umno Youth movement during a briefing on Taklimat Isu Semasa Negara at the Seremban Municipal Council hall today.

He said the time had come for the people to leave it to the court to decide, adding that there were more serious problems which needed immediate attention.

"All party members and the people should now put the episode behind them and continue with the party's struggles and efforts to revive the country's economy," he said.

The Menteri Besar said the party had encountered numerous obstacles in the past and had always come out on top and expressed full confidence that the present issues surrounding Anwar would not pose any hindrance to the growth of the party.

He said that though it may be hard for certain people to accept the allegations against the former deputy prime minister, they (the people) must have faith in the leadership of Dr Mahathir and the present Government.

"Everything will be exposed in court and the people must be patient."

He also called on the people to ignore false information spread through the Internet and pamphlets.

Meanwhile, political secretary to the Prime Minister, Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsudin, said for a start, parents should advise their children studying in local universities to refrain from getting involved in demonstrations and other unfruitful activities as there were more pressing issues at hand.

He said these students should look into ways of improving the future for themselves and their children and not waste time participating in activities which were unlawful and against the interest of the country.

Speaking at a briefing organised by the Jelebu Umno division at the Jelebu District Council hall today, he said: "The people must maintain confidence in the legal system and rest assured that Anwar would be judged fairly."

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