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Perak BN committee supports action taken

IPOH, Wed. - The Perak Barisan Nasional Committee today passed a resolution to support the action taken by the Umno Supreme Council to sack former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Committee chairman Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, who is Menteri Besar, said the resolution also declared the State BN Committee's unanimous and undivided support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership.

The resolution, which was signed by 23 members of the committee, will be submitted to Dr Mahathir soon.

On the absence of Perak Umno Youth chief Jamal Nasir Rasdi during a Youth exco meeting yesterday, Ramli said Jamal Nasir did not turn up because he was not sure of the venue.

He said he was informed by Jamal Nasir that he (Jamal Nasir) would give his support to whatever was decided at the exco meeting.

"He will probably sign the memorandum agreed upon by the exco members to declare a no confidence motion in the leadership of Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi," he said after chairing a State BN Committee meeting at his residence today.

On the arrest of Lumut Umno Youth leader Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir under the Internal Security Act, Ramli said the arrest was because of the latter's active involvement in the Anwar-led reform movement.

On the illegal gathering of some 200 people at the Taiping Municipal Hall last night, said to be in support of Anwar, Ramli said it was unsuccessful as the people rejected the reform movement.

He also said the people wanted peace and harmony and realise that the reform movement could create unrest.

In Kluang, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said Johor Malays will not be easily taken in by Anwar's so-called reform movement. He said the Malay community here were staunch Umno and Barisan Nasional supporters and they could not be easily swayed by Anwar's fiery oratory or anti-Mahathir stance.

He said whatever sympathy Johor Malays had for Anwar after his expulsion from the Cabinet and party, had also dissipated after he joined hands with the DAP to hit out at the Government.

"The moment he stood on the same platform as the DAP, people started questioning his real motives," he told reporters after opening a recreational park at Taman Delima here yesterday.

Ghani said the people of Johor now realised that he was a desperate man, who would resort to anything, even consorting with the DAP, to undermine the Government.

He said Johor Malays were now able to see the true colours of Anwar, adding that they would never accept anyone who was working hand in glove with the opposition party.

He urged the people to reject Anwar and the reform movement he was propagating as there was no basis for it.

"The case against Anwar will be proven once the matter goes to court. The Government will produce the evidence for all to see. I urge the people to be patient and allow the process of law to take its course."

Ghani said he had directed all Johor Umno division and branch leaders to go to the ground and explain the controversy surrounding Anwar's sacking

to the people.

On another development, Ghani said the Umno Sri Gading division had passed a resolution to ask the party disciplinary committee to take action against one of its members, Lokman Adam, who had allowed his house in Taman Kooperasi to be used by Anwar for his `ceramah' in Batu Pahat last week.

He said the complaint had already been referred to the Umno Supreme Council for follow-up action.

Ghani said the party took a serious view of Umno members supporting Anwar's reform movement, adding that this was a serious breach of party discipline.

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