

04 OCT 1998

Tajol-recordings

RECORDINGS WON'T AFFECT UMNO'S EXPLANATION, SAYS TAJOL ROSLI

GOPENG, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said today the existence of cassette recordings promoting the so-called movement for reform will not affect the party's briefing to members on the actual reasons for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's expulsion from the Cabinet and party.

The party's 2.4 million members were being enlightened that Anwar's sacking by Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad was based on issues of morality rather than political reasons, said Tajol Rosli, who is also Deputy Home Minister.

He said the ministry was awaiting reports from Jakim, the Islamic Development Department and the police on the various cassette recordings of Anwar's speeches and that of his supporters, such as lawyer Zulkifli Nordin.

Jakim would scrutinise the recordings from the religious aspect and the police, for seditious elements, he told reporters here after briefing Gopeng Umno division members on current national issues.

Anwar, who was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on sept 2 and expelled from Umno the next day, is currently detained under the Internal Security Act for threatening national security.

Zulkifli, alongside Anwar, is among nine people still being detained under the ISA.

Altogether 17 people, including Anwar, were arrested following illegal assemblies and rioting in the federal capital since Sept 20 after Anwar led an illegal procession from the National Mosque that day.

Police had since released eight of the detainees unconditionally.

Tajol Rosli hoped the prevailing normal situation in the federal capital would continue to be preserved with the public staying away from illegal assemblies and demonstrations.

He urged the public to exercise patience and wait for Anwar's trial process to be completed and place their trust in the courts, the Attorney-General and the police to handle the matter.

Tajol said: "Continued demonstrations or rioting will worsen the situation and national stability and will also prolong the country's economic crisis."

Anwar was charged in open court in Kuala Lumpur last Tuesday on five counts of corruption and four counts of sodomy and with the fifth count of sodomy the next day in Petaling Jaya. He claimed trial to all the charges.

When asked about Anwar's former political secretary Mohamad Ezam Mohd Noor and Pulau Pinang Youth Chief Dr Abdul Rahim Ghouse, who are now reportedly in Indonesia, Tajol Rosli said action would be taken against them upon their return if they were found to have broken the law.

-- BERNAMA

HK GM rn