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Reformation move: Group calls for disciplinary action

IPOH, Tues. - Nine State Umno Youth division leaders have called for disciplinary action against the movement's leaders who are involved in Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's move for reformation.

They also said Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and several others who held party posts and were aligned with the reformation propagated by the former deputy president should step down.

Taiping Youth division leader Ton Zalani Mat Darus, who spoke on behalf of the group, told reporters last night that leaders who could not accept decisions made by the party should leave the party.

He said the group was undivided in its support for party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's action and the decision by the Umno supreme council to expel Anwar for moral misconduct.

The group had earlier walked out of a special State Umno Youth meeting held at the State Umno office over differences of opinion.

The meeting, which 19 out of 23 divisional Youth leaders attended, was called to discuss issues pertaining to Anwar's removal and also the need to declare full support to the current leadership.

The other Youth leaders present at the Press conference were Ayob Mohd (Pasir Salak), Nasir Ismail (Tambun), Pazli Abdullah Sani (Tapah), Dr Shamsol Anwar (Sungai Siput), Md Yusof Alang Ahmad (Kampar), Wan Khairil Anwar (Kuala Kangsar) and Jamal Nasir Othman (Parit Buntar).

Batu Gajah Umno Youth division leader Zainal Abidin Awang Kechik, who was the first to walk out of the meeting and who was not at the Press conference, had earlier told reporters that Zahid could not remain as Youth chief and support Anwar who was no longer a party member at the same time.

Ton Zalani said they had walked out because the meeting, chaired by State Youth leader Jamal Nasir Rasdi, did not address the imminent issue of urging Zahid to make a clear stand on Anwar's expulsion and on the need for the Youth movement to explain to the grassroots the decision made by the supreme council against Anwar.

He also claimed four other Youth leaders - Nasri Shaari (Ipoh Barat), Abdul Muhaimin Abdul Rahman Nazri (Bagan Serai), Tarmizi Idris (Grik) and Daud Mohd Yusof (Larut) - supported the stand taken by the group.

The 13 Youth leaders had on Sept 2 submitted a memorandum to Dr Mahathir declaring full support for the supreme council's decision.

Nasri and Abdul Muhaimin were among four Youth division leaders who did not attend last night's meeting.

The other two were Ismail Kamaruddin (Parit) and Mohd Ali Mansor (Beruas).

It was learnt that several leaders were of the opinion that Anwar should be reinstated and this had caused a debate resulting in several leaders leaving the meeting.

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