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Mokhtar-Anwar

RIOTING "BLACK SPOT" IN M'SIA'S HISTORY - WAN MOKHTAR

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sept 23 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad today described as a "black spot in Malaysia's history" the rioting in the federal capital, saying it should not have happened in a country which practised democracy and valued the people's unity.

Being devout Muslims who respected the unity among the multi-racial people, they should not have participated in illegal assemblies which disrupted public order, he said.

" They should have shown themselves as devout Muslims and accepted God's will," he told reporters when asked to comment on the disturbances in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday and Monday triggered by the illegal assemblies held by supporters of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

They should have been patient and calm in accepting Anwar's removal from the Cabinet and Umno, said Wan Mokhtar, who is also Terengganu Umno Liaison chief.

He reiterated that Cabinet appointments were the prerogative of the Prime Minister and expelling someone from Umno was the right of the Supreme Council, the party's highest decision-making body.

" Let the court decide the justice (for Anwar)," he said.

In SEREMBAN, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad said the people should be thankful to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his firmness in ensuring that the country be led by leaders with high morals.

He said action must be taken against those who supported Anwar as they were not loyal and did not love Umno.

" It's clear they did not love Umno but joined the party for other motives such as to enjoy the benefits from the party and government," he told reporters after the state executive council meeting.

In KOTA KINABALU, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam said Umno members in the state were more anxious to listen to Anwar's involvement in the sex scandal than to question the party's decision to expel him.

He advised Sabah Umno leaders who still could not accept Anwar's expulsion from Umno to leave the party.

He said State Umno leaders faced some difficulty in choosing the appropriate words to explain the allegations against Anwar.

"It's not easy to explain the allegations as it is not our culture to use improper language," he told reporters after the weekly state executive council meeting.

In KANGAR, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the state government would hold briefing sessions for civil servants on the Anwar issue.

He said the briefings were held to convince the people to accept the reality as Dr Mahathir said yesterday that there were still many who did not believe Anwar was stripped off from his positions due to low morals.

Shahidan also advised Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to be patient and let the police investigate her husband's case.

-- BERNAMA

AD NMO TS