

14/09/1998

Sabbaruddin: Zahid must stop backing non-member

TEMERLOH, Sun. - Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi should step down if he continues to align himself with former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in his so-called reformation movement.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today Zahid should refrain from supporting a non-party member because it was now clear that Anwar was against Umno.

"As the leader of the party's Youth wing he should understand this. But I cannot make a decision on behalf of supreme council on Zahid's position in the party," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after a closed-door briefing for party members from the Temerloh division.

Sabbaruddin, who is also Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, said action provided for under section 18.6 of the party's constitution could be taken against Zahid.

The section allows the party to warn, suspend or bar a member from vying for party posts or contesting in the general or state elections, expulsion from the party and other punishments deemed fit.

There is also section 18.4 which, among others, requires every party member to adhere to the party's decision, safeguard the party's good name and abide by the party's policies, failing which action can also be taken.

Sabbaruddin, who is also Temerloh Umno divisional chief, said the division had unanimously supported party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to sack Anwar from the party.

"Based on the explanation given, the division has accepted Dr Mahathir's and supreme council's decision to sack Anwar," he said.

On today's briefing which was attended by about 250 members, Sabbaruddin said: "Most of the things I told them were what have been reported in the media and members were given the opportunity to ask questions for further clarifications."

(END)