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Sabbaruddin to ex-DPM: Do not involve others

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UMNO secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik yesterday advised members of the public who visit Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at his home not to provoke the former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister into taking action which can further deteriorate the situation.

"They can visit ... console Anwar. The people have the right to believe whoever they want but it is best to let the Courts decide.

"What has been done cannot be undone.

"I am also one of Anwar's friend. My advice to him is for him to think ... not to impose his personal problems on other people, especially students," he told reporters after launching the Pesta Budaya Amal in Kuala Lumpur.

Sabbaruddin also said that the Government has set a date for a briefing of all Umno divisional heads, their deputies and Umno Youth and Women leaders to explain the situation so that they can relay it to party members.

It will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre. The date for the briefing will be announced by Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad soon, he said.

On foreign media reports saying that Anwar's removal from the Cabinet and the party will affect the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Sabbaruddin said the issue is not related to the Games at all.

"One or two people may try to do something bad ... but I doubt that there is anyone who would want to ruin the efforts of 20 million Malaysians," he said.

In his speech earlier, Sabbaruddin - who is Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, said it is the people's love for the country which makes it difficult for anyone to destroy its peace and stability.

"Malaysians are a caring and concern people. It is difficult to find such a spirit in other multi-racial countries," he said.

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