

19/06/1998

Stand united behind Dr M, Anwar urges party members

UMNO deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on party members to be united under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to face these trying times as a result of the economic problems.

He said there was a need for all parties to make sacrifices, refrain from promoting self-interest and avoid factionalism in the party.

Anwar said sacrifices should not come from one side only but must also involve all parties including the people and leaders.

"We will not be able to get out of the current crisis if the people are selfish and only want their interests to be served first."

He said during good times, they wanted to grab everything for themselves and during times of hardship, they wanted to be given immediate aid.

They threaten anybody including government institutions to give priority to resolving their problems, the Deputy Prime Minister said at the opening of the Umno Youth and Wanita assemblies at the Putra World Trade Centre.

But, he said what was needed to be upheld was the interest of the nation and the people.

he importance of society must supercede interests of any particular group or faction, he added.

He also said Umno members should not be influenced by groups out to break their unity.

Anwar also spoke on Umno's "unique" agenda, saying that only the party could determine its own agenda.

"We resolve and formulate our own agenda - the Malay agenda, the economic agenda, the social agenda, the religious and cultural agenda. We have the Vision 2020 and a strong civil society that needs to be achieved. Our attention and focus should therefore not be distracted by other people's chess game."

(END)