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State Umno Youth chief urged to resign

PENANG, Tues. - State Umno Youth chairman Dr Abdul Rahim Ghouse should resign from his party post if he is not in favour of the party supreme council's decision to expel Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for alleged moral misconduct.

State Umno Liaison Committee deputy chairman Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar today said Abdul Rahim should step down since his support for someone sacked by the party implied that he was not supporting Umno.

"I think it wise that all State Youth leaders urge Abdul Rahim to resign since his actions do not reflect support for the Supreme Council's decision," he told reporters after opening the Harmonious Family (Keluarga Bahagia) seminar at Dewan Sri Pinang.

"When the Umno State Youth chairmen met in Kuala Lumpur, they expressed their support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to remove Anwar as Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Umno deputy president.

"However, Abdul Rahim is now supporting someone who was sacked by the Supreme Council and this shows he is not with us."

"Since he seems unhappy with our decision, it's only honourable that he should step down," said Mohd Shariff, adding that he was in full support of Dr Mahathir's call to Umno Youth leader Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi to resign as party youth chief.

Mohd Shariff said he would meet all State Umno division and branch leaders this Friday to devise a programme to disseminate information on the party to members in the State.

Meanwhile, several Umno division youth leaders in the State also want Abdul Rahim to step down as State Youth chief and clarify his stand to youth members.

However, when contacted by the New Straits Times, Abdul Rahim said it was premature for others to tell him to step down as State Youth chief.

He said everyone should wait for the outcome of the appeal to be submitted soon to the supreme council by the "so-called reformist group" to have Anwar reinstated in the party.

Kepala Batas Youth chief Roslan Saidin and Balik Pulau Youth vice-chairman Hashimi Budin called on Abdul Rahim to step down because he had gone against the party spirit and struggle by supporting the former Deputy Prime Minister who was sacked from the Cabinet and party for alleged moral misconduct.

"Kepala Batas Youth, like many State Youth committees, fully backs the party's decision on Anwar, and we regret that the State Youth chief is seen with someone who is no longer a party member and who is hitting out at the party and Government daily," Roslan said today.

Hashimi echoed the same sentiments and said Abdul Rahim should step down to preserve the State Youth wing's integrity because such actions would result in people questioning the State Umno youth wing's stand on the Anwar issue.

State Umno Youth secretary and Tasek Gelugor Youth chief Nor Azman Othman, Bayan Baru Youth chief Liakat Ali Mohd Ali and Tanjung Umno youth secretary Syed Azmi Syed Nazri said Abdul Rahim should explain his stand.

"He should do it either publicly or via an emergency State youth meeting immediately because youth leaders and members will be confused if it drags on," said Nor Azman.

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