

16 FEB 1998

Anwar-Warning

STERN ACTION AGAISNT TROUBLE MAKERS AT UMNO MEETINGS- ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- The Umno Disciplinary Committee today warned party leaders at all levels that stern action will be taken against them in case of disruptions at branch meetings and divisional conferences.

"The disciplinary committee which met today has decided on stern action against leaders at all levels if they breach provisions in the party constitution, go against the directive of the Supreme Council and party headquarters," Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is also the committee chairman said. He earlier chaired the meeting of the committee.

The meeting also decided that State Umno Liaison Committees and all other groups be banned from organising campaigns or arrange any meetings to propose or oppose any candidate for the divisional polls scheduled for March 12 to 29.

The branch annual general meetings which began on Feb 12 will end on March 15.

The committee also studied the advice of the party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that there should be no contests for posts at divisional level and that changes should come about through discussions and consensus.

Anwar said the committee did not want party members to misinterpret the decision of the Umno Supreme Council pertaining to the advice of Dr Mahathir.

"We do not want any misinterpretation ...no threat or strict prohibition or any team campaign by any group including the liaison committee to propose or oppose any candidate," he said.

"What is allowed is consensus or orderly closed door discussions among candidates or potential candidates," he said.

"Not making use of the Supreme Council decision to mount large scale campaigns for or against ...as this is against the spirit of the council and party decision," he said.

Anwar said Umno members who had settled their subscriptions had the right to attend branch meetings.

"If problems crop up over any branch or division denying a member his right to attend a branch meeting or divisional conference, the meeting will be cancelled and action taken against the leaders concerned," he said.

He said divisions should conduct their own divisional conferences and help conduct the branch meetings however Umno Youth and Wanita Umno branch meetings should be conducted by their respective divisions.

The meeting also resolved that members standing as candidates should not use the name of the party president, deputy president or any Umno leader in their bid to win acceptance.

Anwar said in line with this decision, the Umno Supreme Council at its last meeting agreed that the party president and deputy president would not open any divisional delegates conference where there was a contest.

The Disciplinary Committee meeting also moved to revoke the rights of the Kubang Kerian Umno Division head Mat Zain Awang to contest any post in the party elections.

The action was taken because Mat Zain had ignored the Umno Supreme Council directive and that of Umno Headquarters to accept former members of the Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) into his division even though their applications for membership had been accepted by the council and the

headquarters.

On the trouble at the Pematang Pasir and Pematang Pasir Tengah branch meetings in the Kota Melaka Division yesterday, Anwar said the two meetings would have to be held once more under the supervision of representatives from the Supreme Council, Melaka Umno Liaison Committee and the Kota Melaka Umno Division.

The committee also directed the Jempol Umno Division leaders in Negeri Sembilan to immediately do away with the services of two members who had been suspended from the party.

They were found to be still active in party activities in the division, he said.

The committee warned them that stern action would be taken against them as well as against any leader who cooperated with the two.

Anwar said the committee also resolved that 16 divisions would be helped in their management by Supreme Council members with the approach of the delegates conference in March.

They are Tanjong Division (Datuk Sharizat Abdul Jalil), Tapah (Datuk Syed Hamid Albar), Ipoh Timur (Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad), Batu (Datuk Mohamed Rahmat), Kapar (Datuk Ibrahim Ali), Jempol (Datuk Sallah Said Keruak), Kota Melaka (Datuk Mohamed Tajol Rosli Ghazali) and Rantau Panjang (Datuk Nazri Aziz Yeop).

Kubang Kerian by Datuk Shafie Abdal, Peringat (Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawan Teh), Pengkalan Chepa (Datuk Sulaiman Mohamed), Sipitang (Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar), Silam (Datuk Megat Jujid Megat Ayob), Beaufort (Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fardzir), Gaya (Datuk Hassan Ariffin) and Kinabatangan (Datuk Raja Arifin Sulaiman).

In case of problems at the divisional conferences, members could refer to them and the party headquarters should also be informed, Anwar added. --
BERNAMA

SJA AAM