

15 SEP 1998  
Ibrahim-Oath  
SWEARING ON QURAN LAST RESORT FOR ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Umno supreme council member senator Datuk Ibrahim Ali said today his suggestion that former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim swear on the Quran is the only way to prove that the accusations against him are not true.

He said that only in this way could Anwar clear his name of all the allegations relating to his personal problems.

"I want to help him as a friend if I can, so I see that there is no alternative but to suggest that he come forward (to swear). If he feels that the ulama's view is that there is no need to swear, that is his opinion," he told reporters, here.

Ibrahim was reported yesterday to have challenged Ibrahim to swear on the Quran to refute the allegations against him but Anwar was reported to have questioned the challenge.

Ibrahim said the suggestion was only a request and not a challenge because he only wanted to help Anwar, who was removed from the cabinet on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno the following day.

The allegations against Anwar included sexual misconduct, corruption and treason. He has denied all the allegations.

Ibrahim said although he had political differences with Anwar, he was sad over Anwar's dismissal.

However, as a member of Umno and its supreme council member, he would defend Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to sack Anwar from the cabinet and the supreme council's decision to expel him, he said.

On Anwar's roadshow, he said it was aimed at diverting attention from Anwar's personal problems by raising other issues.

-- BERNAMA  
RZS JK