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`Take it in your stride and let the country's courts decide'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik today said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim should not try to involve undergraduates, youths and associations in his personal problems.

He advised Anwar, who was dropped from the Cabinet as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister and later sacked as Umno deputy president, to "take it" in his stride and not try to draw other people into his problems.

"Anwar is my good friend and thus I would like to give him this advice.

"If he is not guilty of the allegations against him, all he should do is try to prove his innocence in court.

"There is no reason why he should not place his trust in the courts.

"If one cannot trust the courts, what else can one trust?"

Sabbaruddin, who is also Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, was speaking to reporters after launching Pesta Budaya Amal at the Matic in Jalan Ampang. The event is organised by the Kuala Lumpur Tourism Association and City Square.

He said Anwar should also realise that "the more he speaks, the more inconsistent his statements become".

He also advised those visiting Anwar not to provoke him.

"There is nothing wrong in paying him visits, but they should not try to incite him."

On Anwar's interviews with the foreign media, Sabbaruddin said if he wanted to "use them" it was his prerogative.

"At one time, Anwar himself had said that the foreign media was interested only in portraying negative things."

He said Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would be calling for a meeting to brief party leaders on Anwar's sacking at the Putra World Trade Centre soon.

On Anwar's statement that he had gone through DNA tests, Sabbaruddin said the police said he had not. "I am confident that the police will not lie."

Asked whether promotional activities for the current Commonwealth Games would be affected by the current political problem, Sabbaruddin said he was confident it would not.

"We only hope people will not try to take advantage of the situation and do detrimental things that will tarnish the image of the country.

"Many people are working to make the Games a success and those who try to sabotage that are those without principles."

On Anwar's talk of reformation, Sabbaruddin said: "What more does he want to reform?"

"If he wanted reformation, he should have done it while he was still working for the Government."

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