

05 SEP 1998

Anwar-Yusof Nor

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ACTED TO SAFEGUARD PARTY- YUSOF NOR

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council's unanimous decision to expel Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the party is to safeguard the dignity and honour of Umno, party Information Chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor said today.

Umno was not acting like a court and meting out punishment when it expelled Anwar but was merely safeguarding its members and ensuring that they followed Islamic teachings, he said.

Umno would mount a nationwide campaign to explain Anwar's expulsion from the party to prevent confusion among members, he said.

"Umno initially did not entertain talk about Datuk Seri Anwar's scandal thinking it was fabrication and a result of envy," he said at a news conference at Radio Malaysia Terengganu.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had confidence in Anwar and on numerous occasions had said that Anwar would be his successor and even appointed him acting Prime Minister and acting party president for two months.

"Unfortunately in the midst of this, the Prime Minister was faced with statements and disclosures which he found difficult to ignore and to safeguard the image of the party, race and country, he had to act with great reluctance against his deputy whom he had trusted," he said.

Umno had no choice but to take a firm stand on this issue to discharge its responsibility and trust placed in it, Dr Yusof said.

"With a heavy heart the party leadership had to go through the process of deciding between the truth and falsehood even though it involved a person of the same race and religion as well as a compatriot," he said.

The information before Umno could not be rejected and there was adequate proof for his expulsion from the party, Dr Yusof said.

He expressed the hope that all Umno members would understand this matter and strengthen unity among themselves particularly during the present economic situation in the country.

-- BERNAMA

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