

29 SEP 1998

Yusof-Mohamed

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SEEK DETAILS FROM MOHAMED

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Umno Supreme Council members will seek details from Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat on his statement that several party divisions and leaders were provided with funds to engage in subversive activities to topple Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as party president.

Umno Information Chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor who said this today expressed confidence that Mohamed had strong basis for his statement and it only went to show that irregularities had taken place among those who were supporting former party deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar was expelled from Umno on Sept 3 by the Umno Supreme Council.

Speaking to reporters after attending the State Assembly meeting, Dr Yusof declined to answer further questions and said that the Supreme Council would make a statement after getting information from Mohamed.

Mohamed at a news conference yesterday said that Umno divisions had been provided with RM1 million and RM2 million to engage in such activities and allowances of between RM5,000 and RM10,000 had also been given to their leaders.

Mohamed had also said there was talk that some 90 divisions were involved.

On the formation of the Gerakan Keadilan Rakyat Malaysia (GERAK) by opposition parties and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Dr Yusof said it was the opposition's latest tactic to hook the people using the current issues as the bait.

GERAK was launched by PAS, DAP and the Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) as well as 12 NGOs including Suara Rakyat Malaysia (Suaram), Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM) and Jemaah Islam Malaysia (JIM) "to demand justice for the people."

Dr Yusof did not discount the possibility that it was orchestrated by foreign groups.

Dr Yusof commended the Malaysian media for its noble culture and being more rational and fair in its coverage of issues relating to the sacking of Anwar unlike the foreign media which only put out news aimed at creating chaos.

-- BERNAMA

SBS AAM