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Unedited tape recordings of supreme council meeting on sale from Sunday

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Umno will put on sale from Sunday the tape recordings of its Supreme Council meeting on Sept 3 that decided on the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the party.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik said today that the party headquarters was trying to get copies of the tapes ready by Sunday when Umno holds a special assembly to amend the party constitution.

The Supreme Council last night decided to make public the full recordings of the Sept 3 meeting so that the people would get a true picture of what transpired at that meeting.

Umno is doing this because tapes containing edited versions of the Sept 3 meeting had been circulated by some people to portray Anwar in a positive light. Anwar was the party's deputy president before his expulsion.

Sabbaruddin said the original recordings of the meeting ran into four cassettes.

The price for the tapes has yet to be decided.

At another function, Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the release of the tape recordings will show that the expulsion was made in a democratic manner.

He also said that the move would allow the people to understand the reasons for Anwar's expulsion from the party.

Speaking to reporters after signing an agreement between RTM and First Cartel (M) Sdn Bhd under which RTM is appointed the host broadcaster of the Le Tour de Langkawi 1999, he said: "It is a very good move as we found there have been attempts to mislead a bit of what was debated at the Supreme Council over Anwar's expulsion."

In Kuala Pilah, Negri Sembilan Umno chief Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad expressed confidence the people would understand that Anwar's sacking was in accordance with the country's democratic process.

He said the Umno supreme council had nothing to hide and its decision to make public the tape recordings would bear witness to this.

He said party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gave all Supreme Council members a fair chance to voice their opinions and the decision was unanimous one.

However, he said the tapes currently in circulation had been edited to portray the picture that there was no unanimous decision on the sacking.

In Bruas, Perak Umno Liaison Committee chairman Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said the tape would be distributed to members to counter the doctored tape which was widely circulated.

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