

18 JUN 1999

Umno-Motion (Annuar)

EXPLANATION SHOULD DISPEL DOUBTS, SAYS ANNUAR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's explanation on the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim should dispel all doubts over the alleged conspiracy against the former deputy prime minister, the Umno general assembly was told today.

"(Following the explanation) there should no longer be Anwar Ibrahim's men...we should join forces in an Umno front," said Kelantan Umno liaison committee deputy chairman Datuk Annuar Musa in seconding a motion on the party president's policy speech.

He said that they have no choice now but to close ranks and strengthen the unity of the party.

Annuar, who represented the Kelantan Umno, also related three incidents to show that there was no conspiracy against Anwar.

He said that the first incident occurred during the Umno divisional meetings in 1995 when many who contested for the post of divisional head said that they were asked to do so by Anwar and some said they were asked to do so by Dr Mahathir.

He said that it would appear as though the top level leadership had given their blessings and so, Dr Mahathir was informed of the matter.

Annuar said that Dr Mahathir then told him that he already had several deputies before this and if there were to be any problems, the impression would be that the problems were not created by his deputies but by him.

He said that the second incident occurred in the Umno Youth election in 1996 when he stood for election but the former party president gave his support to a certain candidate.

The third incident, he said, was when the prime minister's delegation visited Latin America and he saw many foreign magazines which had articles praising Anwar and appearing to undermine the prime minister.

Annuar said that he commented to the prime minister that it appeared as though Anwar had received the support of the foreign powers but the prime minister only stated that the party's front had to be strengthened as outsiders only wanted to see disunity among the party members.

He said that he had related the incidents as he believed there could not have been a conspiracy to bring down the former deputy prime minister.

"Dr Mahathir is only thinking of the interest of the religion, race and nation," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SBJ NAK RM