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Right to expose Anwar dealings

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sun. - Umno leaders, including Menteri Besar, who want to expose their dealings with Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim need not seek the approval of the Umno supreme council.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob said it was an individual's right to expose their personal experiences with the former Deputy Prime Minister.

"We cannot and will not stop them. They can even write a memoir about their experiences when they held positions (in the party). If they wish to reveal their experiences (with Anwar) to the supreme council, we will listen," he said.

He was asked to comment on a statement by Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Ghani Othman yesterday that he would expose his dealings with Anwar at the right time.

Khalil said the exposure by Abdul Ghani or any individual on Anwar would be relevant in view of recent allegations by former assistant Bank Negara governor Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid that Anwar had amassed RM3 billion when he was the Deputy Prime Minister.

Asked if Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Umno president, would brief supreme council members on Abdul Murad's allegations, he said supreme council members could always ask.

"This is a normal practice. Whenever certain important issues which involve the party surface and are of public interest, they will be discussed and we will make a stand," he said before meeting Radio Television Malaysia staff at Bukit Pak Apil today.

On the call by the Opposition to set up a royal commission to look into the allegations, Khalil said it was not necessary as the country has the Anti-Corruption Agency, police and Parliament which could investigate and debate on the subject.

In Kuala Lumpur, Bernama says police will render whatever assistance needed by the ACA in their probe.

"The police report was lodged by the ACA, so they will conduct the investigations," Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Jamil Johari said today.

Umno anti-defamation and legal panel secretariat head Zawawi Zin urged individuals and parties implicated in the statutory declaration to make their denials through statutory declarations.

"Since the allegations were made via statutory declaration, denials should be issued using a similar course," he said in a statement today.

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