

Anwar: Statement was manipulated to include apology

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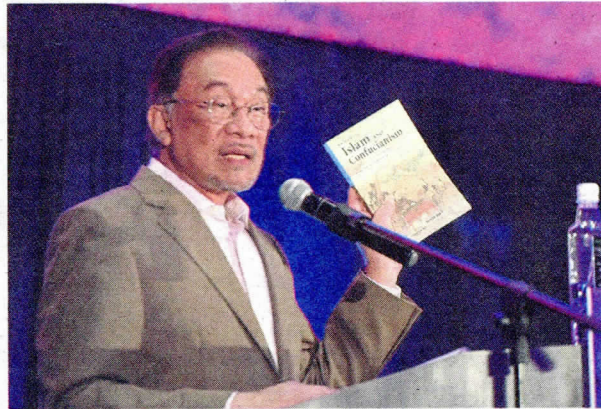
GEORGE TOWN: PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will not apologise for the party's sacking of Bera division chief Zakaria Abdul Hamid.

"I confirmed with PKR vice-presidents Tian Chua and R. Sivarasa. They only protested to the sacking and asked the party disciplinary committee to reconsider.

"Asking for the president to apologise was not in the statement and it has been manipulated.

"I am not sure who manipulated the statement, but it was signed by the deputy president.

"The statement has to be agreed to by all. However, some para-



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Making a point: Anwar delivering his keynote address at the Islam Confucianism Dialogue.

graphs were not in the draft," said Anwar.

He was referring to a memorandum signed by 20 PKR central com-

mittee members in protest of Zakaria's sacking.

Anwar said the statement was "manipulated" because the signato-

ries only protested to Zakaria's sacking but never asked for him to apologise in the draft.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the Islam Confucianism Dialogue at SPICE Convention Centre here.

Anwar said Zakaria and Pahang PKR member Ismail Duhladi could submit an appeal within two weeks.

"They can appeal to the disciplinary committee to review the sacking and I do not object it. That's their right," he said.

PKR secretary-general Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, who was present, stressed that the sacking was done in accordance with recommendations from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Saifuddin said the party received reports of the investigation as well as recommendations for action be taken against Zakaria in accordance with the party's code of ethics.

"The party received a report dated Oct 23 from MACC containing statements by Zakaria and Ismail recorded during the investigation.

"MACC concluded in the letter that the action of both of them was an offence and proposed that the party take action," said Saifuddin.

"Initially, we thought we were just performing our responsibility as suggested by the highest authority in investigating corruption cases in the country.

"This is the first time in 20 years that the highest authority has sent us such a letter," he said.