

PM: NO CHANGE IN SABAH STATE GOVT

Situation under control as Anwar in contact with Hajiji, state's leaders

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THERE has been no change of the state government in Sabah, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim following a failed coup attempt in the state yesterday.

The prime minister said the situation in the state was under control, and that he had been in contact with a number of Sabah leaders, including Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, Parti Warisan president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and state Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin.

Anwar said he also held discussions with BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and DAP secretary-general Anthony Loke on the matter.

"I have contacted them all about Sabah. Hajiji, Shafie and Bung Moktar. I have also discussed this with Zahid and Loke and it seems that (Sabah) is calm for now.

"I don't think there will be any development (on a change in the state government)," he said after performing Friday prayers at Masjid Bukit Aman here yesterday.

Anwar also advised political leaders to hold constructive meetings if there were specific issues to discuss.

"I have been informed on certain issues and I asked for the chief minister to have a good discussion with my friends in Sabah," he said.

It was previously reported that a coup attempt, dubbed the "Kinabalu Move", to topple the Gabungan Rakyat Sabah administration, was thwarted on Thursday.

Sources claimed that the move, purportedly engineered by Bung Moktar, Shafie and former Umno stalwart Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak, failed after 11 out of 17 Umno assemblymen refused to support Warisan to form a new government.

The 11 assemblymen instead chose to declare their support for Hajiji as chief minister.

It is understood that a meeting of state Umno leaders was called at the Sabah Umno Building here. The 11 Umno assemblymen later declared their support for Hajiji at the chief minister's residence on Thursday night.

The 11 include Karambunai as-

semblyman Datuk Yakub Khan, who is also Sabah Umno deputy chairman; Datuk Andi Muhammad Suryady Bandy (Tanjung Batu); Datuk Mohamad Hamsan Awang Supain (Sungai Sibuga); Datuk James Ratib (Sugut); Datuk Harun Durabi (Bengkoka); Datuk Dr Yusof Yacob (Sindumin); and, Datuk Raime Unggi (nominated member).

The rest are Tanjung Keramat assemblyman Datuk Shahelmezy Yahya, who is also state community development and people's welfare minister; Datuk Jasniyah Daya (Pantai Dalit); Datuk Mohd Arsad Bistari (Tempasuk); and, Datuk Suhaimi Nasir (nominated member).

Warisan had, on Thursday evening, called for a press conference, which was supposed to be chaired by Shafie, with Bung Moktar in attendance. However, the press conference was called off.

It is understood that the assemblymen's refusal to support Warisan for the coup attempt was the reason behind the cancellation of the press conference.

It was also learnt that all seven Pakatan Harapan assemblymen had also backed the GR-led government and Hajiji's leadership, which put paid to Warisan's and BN's plans to assume control of the state administration.