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Anwar `has not quit as Finance Minister'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has quashed rumours that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has resigned as Finance Minister.

The Prime Minister dismissed the notion that he had apparently taken over the Finance Ministry.

Stressing that there had been no change to the finance portfolio, he said Anwar was now doing all he could in dealing with foreign funds driving down the stock market and the speculative attacks against ringgit.

"I think these are people who have no national interest at heart," he said. "Anwar is not resigning."

"I do not know what to do with these people (rumour mongers)...we should shoot them," he quipped.

Speaking at a Press conference after opening the MCA annual general assembly at Wisma MCA, Dr Mahathir said he has regular meetings with Anwar and were working closely to tackle the problems.

"I am responsible simply because I am the head of the Government," he said.

Dr Mahathir criticised rumour-mongers for being only interested in making money.

"They don't care if this country goes to the dogs," he said. "If the (share) prices go down, everybody will suffer...the brokers will have smaller margin because they will deal with shares which are cheaper."

Later, at the opening of the National Horse Show at the STC Equestrian and Sports Centre in Sungai Besi, Anwar dismissed such talk as rumours.

"These are just rumours," he told reporters. "I am here as the Deputy Prime Minister."

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