

'Anwar overstepped his boundaries'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had during his tenure as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister used Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's name in handling several matters which were not within the jurisdiction of his portfolios.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa said as such, Anwar was seen to be more powerful than the prime minister himself.

"Among the areas which Anwar had overstepped his boundaries included housing and internal security matters which involved the police.

"My ministry's projects, including the Umbrella Village Development Campaign, was cancelled without any reason given.

"The decision to cancel the campaign was later found to be a blunder leading to 1,400 small-scale contractors losing their businesses.

"I did not protest against the decision because I

thought it was a collective Cabinet decision," he told reporters after launching the village development programme at Kampung Malaysia Tambahan, Sungei Besi.

Among those who were at the ceremony were Bandar Tun Razak MP Datuk Tan Chai Ho and Bandar Tun Razak Umno division chief Tamunif Mokhtar.

Asked whether the Cabinet members felt uneasy with Anwar's actions, Annuar said at times, Anwar had ventured into the jurisdiction of other ministries.

He said: "We could not tell anyone outside the Cabinet, because we are under oath of secrecy.

"I have been a minister for eight years. Dr Mahathir never interfered in the functions of my ministry except to raise certain points during Cabinet meetings.

"Anwar's way of handling things were haphazard and did not take into account the views of other Cabinet members.

"I had realised then that

the deputy prime minister was more powerful than the prime minister," he added.

He said he felt compelled to tell these happenings to the public because Dr Mahathir had been criticised to the point that he was said to be unfair and dictatorial when Anwar was sacked.

Annuar advised those who claimed that Dr Mahathir was "dictatorial" to check their facts first.

He also said Umno leaders at divisional and branch levels should not be afraid to explain the real issue behind Anwar's sacking.

"From what we understand, people are angry and confused over the issue.

"The public must be informed of Anwar's behaviour which has caused hardship to both the Prime Minister as well as the nation," he added.

Annuar also said Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi should be commended for resigning from his position as Umno Youth chief.