

Permatang Pauh Declaration 'an old song to get sympathy'

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KUALA LUMPUR: While the Pasir Mas Umno division unanimously made a declaration yesterday to reject Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's Permatang Pauh Declaration, that of Bukit Bendera declared it was backing Anwar.

Pasir Mas division chief Datuk Ibrahim Ali said the Pasir Mas 23 Jamadil Awal 1419 Declaration yesterday, rejected Anwar's declaration because the Government had already implemented all that was being sought under Anwar's declaration.

"That declaration (Permatang Pauh) is only recomposing an old song to the beat of

reformation for political purposes to blind the eyes of the *rakyat* to get sympathy and support," he said in a statement.

Ibrahim Ali said the division stood firmly behind party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the supreme council in its decision to expel Anwar from Umno.

Bukit Bendera chief Datuk Ahmad Ismail announced last night at Anwar's residence that his division supported Anwar, who had sacrificed a lot for Malaysia.

Ahmad said that Dr Mahathir should be grateful to

Anwar who had backed him during the 1987 Umno presidential elections when Dr Mahathir was challenged by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

"Dr Mahathir won by 43 votes. Is it not because of Anwar's backing?" he asked.

Anwar, when he spoke, told the crowd that his friend, Dr Munawir Anis, had been detained under the Internal Security Act.

He added that Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi confirmed his conspiracy theory when the latter said the conspirators should be thanked for exposing him (Anwar).