

# Show evidence, Anwar told <sup>44</sup>

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad challenged Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to provide evidence which the former deputy prime minister claims will exonerate him of all charges.

"Produce the evidence, if there is evidence. We do not have a problem with that," said Dr Mahathir.

Responding to questions on Anwar's claims that he had

the evidence stored away, Dr Mahathir said that it did not matter as it was up to the laws to decide.

He was speaking to reporters after witnessing several sporting events at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium yesterday.

On Anwar's *ceramahs*, he said that his former deputy was entitled to his opinion but added that Anwar's strategy was to say that the courts were unfair.

"If he is found guilty, he

will say that the court was unfair and that it was a conspiracy," said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar had also surrounded himself with his followers, hoping that the police would be deterred from charging him.

"He is hoping his supporters are going to gather at the courts and cause problems. This means that he does not respect the courts at all. He wants to use that kind of pressure to prevent the police from carrying out the legal

process," said Dr Mahathir.

To questions, Dr Mahathir said the deputy prime minister's post would not be filled soon.

"There is no need (for an interim deputy prime minister)," said Dr Mahathir, adding that filling the post was not easy.

"We need to give Umno the opportunity to decide on their candidate and to make their own assessment.

"If we fill it now, then that person (deputy prime minis-

ter) will have a certain advantage (at the party elections)," he said.

Asked who would run the country during his working visit to Japan soon, he said there was no need to appoint someone to fill the post.

"There have been times when both Datuk Seri Anwar and I have left the country. There was no need then," he said.