

Quit as Prime Minister,² Anwar tells Dr Mahathir

By MUSTAFA KAMAL BASRI

KUALA TERENGGANU: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to step down.

"Now, Anwar Ibrahim is officially calling on Dr Mahathir to resign as Prime Minister," said the sacked deputy prime minister when addressing a crowd of 10,000 at Pantai Batu Buruk, here.

He said Dr Mahathir should step down because he refused to heed advice from those around him.

Anwar also said he was considering contesting against Dr Mahathir in the Kubang Pasu constituency because of the strong support he had received when he held a ceramah in Baling recently.

Anwar, who has spoken at several rallies to deny allegations against him, for the first time admitted publicly that he had asked Umno Youth chief

Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi to raise the issue of cronyism, nepotism and corruption at the last Umno general assembly.

He said the Prime Minister was angry that the issue was raised.

On his reformation movement, Anwar said he was willing to work with any organisation or political party, including PAS and DAP.

Anwar also announced that his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail would lead the movement if he was arrested.

He said he still respected the police, except for certain officers who he alleged conducted investigations "a la Gestapo."

Anwar said that he has received information that the police will come out with 21 charges against him next week, and added that the charges may increase to 24 after his visit to Kuala Terengganu and Kota Bharu yesterday.