

# ANWAR INCITED VIOLENCE

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He provoked  
people to  
riot, says PM

By WAN HAMIDIHAMID

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was arrested under the Internal Security Act because he incited riots, but he will appear in court to answer charges of sexual misconduct, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the only reason the sacked deputy prime minister and expelled Umno deputy president was being held under the ISA was because he incited riots which would have been detrimental to the country.

"It is their (the police) intention, according to them, that they want to arrest him and charge him in a normal court of law. It was not their intention to arrest him under the ISA.

"However, because of his incitement to violence, they had to take him in earlier than they proposed because they thought they would get more evidence against him.

"So, now they have arrested him under the ISA, but I believe it is their intention to bring him before the courts and charge him in the normal manner," he said without giving a timeframe.

However, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said Anwar would be produced in court within a week and charged with at least a dozen counts of sex-related offences.

"The charges are all related to sex scandals and not for other reasons," he told reporters in Banting.

Dr Mahathir told the hour-long press conference at his office: "This is something that Anwar does not want. He does not want to face an open court and be tried. He wants to be arrested under the ISA so that he can accuse the Government of being oppressive, dictatorial, et cetera."

Dr Mahathir, who is Home Minister, said the press conference was supposed to have been held on Monday evening after the Umno supreme council meeting but he was not able to meet the media because he had to attend the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games.

# Dr M: Anwar decided to become a rabble-rouser

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He said Anwar's greatest fear was that he would be charged in court because "all the things he is alleged to have done will be revealed as all the witnesses are able to give evidence."

"These witnesses are different from others. They will have to give evidence which in a way will bring shame to themselves. Anwar's greatest hope is that they will not tell their stories, because to do so will bring shame to themselves.

"But he did not expect that his own adopted brother and his friend will come out in the open and make this statement.

"They decided that they should come clean, even at the risk of being jailed for abetting an act of sodomy, even at the risk of their families being shamed by their confessions," he said. 523-9-98

Anwar's adopted brother Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madia and Anwar's Pakistani friend Dr Munawar Ahmad Aness were each sentenced to six months' jail for committing gross indecency by allowing the former deputy prime minister to sodomise them.

Anwar was sacked as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept 2. He was expelled from Umno the next day.

Dr Mahathir also pointed out

vesterday that Anwar did not swear to refute allegations against him during Sunday's rally at the National Mosque because he only uttered the words "I swear" which "is not good enough."

Saying that a man who gave the impression of being religious was quite capable of swearing in a mosque, the Prime Minister said he did not put much value in Anwar's swearing.

Dr Mahathir admitted that the police were caught off-guard on Sunday when the rioting broke out.

He said although Anwar had been giving inflammatory speeches, including the one on

Sunday which called for his (Dr Mahathir's) resignation, the police did not expect any outbreak of violence.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar had instigated his followers to violence, including attacking certain places and trying to disrupt normal life in the city.

"They hope to overthrow the Government, especially me."

Dr Mahathir said Anwar had urged his followers to wreak damage and there was evidence he was going to do it in other parts of the country.

"(On Sunday) they marched to my house, and although I did not know why, there was talk of burning down the house," he said, adding that Anwar decid-

ed to become a rabble-rouser.

He said Anwar chose Sunday because he knew the police would be preoccupied with the Commonwealth Games, including the visit by Queen Elizabeth II.

He also said that Anwar wanted to take advantage of the presence of foreign journalists who were in the country to carry news about him around the world.

"Now, I'm labelled a dictator, well, an elected dictator, of course," he said.

The Prime Minister also brushed aside allegations that the police had acted violently against the demonstrators outside the courts on Monday.