

'Foreign powers³⁴ supporting Anwar'

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Ibrahim: They are hoping to oust Dr Mahathir

MALACCA: Umno supreme council member Datuk Ibrahim Ali claimed yesterday that some foreign powers supported Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's rallies in a bid to oust Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the US government's displeasure over Anwar's sacking showed that some superpowers disliked Dr Mahathir's leadership and his style of solving political problems.

On Friday, a US government spokesman had urged the Prime Minister to adhere to the world declaration on human rights and for Anwar to be given a fair trial.

"Such statements show they (US) strongly support Anwar's rallies to oust Dr Mahathir," he said after meeting state Umno members in Ayer Keroh.

Ibrahim also claimed that some religious movements in the country and ulamaks had been used to organise rallies after being influenced by Anwar prior to his detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

On Anwar's claim that Dr

Mahathir practised **cronyism** and nepotism, he denied the **accusation** saying instead that it was Anwar who had clearly practised all of that when he was in the Government.

Describing Anwar as a "jack

of all trades", Ibrahim claimed he had a list of corporate companies Anwar, his family and followers owned.

"I strongly believe that some of these companies were sponsoring Anwar's rallies even though he had been detained," he said, adding that the companies were distributing leaflets and cassettes of Anwar's speeches.

Ibrahim urged the police to investigate these companies sponsoring Anwar's rallies and demonstrations.

He also urged Anwar's followers and sympathisers to withdraw their support, adding that the people should realise that Dr Mahathir was a responsible leader and had made the right decision to sack Anwar from the Government and party.

Ibrahim said PAS had, blamed the Government for protecting Umno members from the law but when Dr Mahathir sacked Anwar, PAS rushed to defend him.

"In fact we have proof that 90% of those who attended Anwar's rallies in Kelantan were PAS followers," he said.