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Anwar: No truth or basis in the allegations

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday maintained innocence against all the allegations made against him, saying that he is a victim of a political conspiracy at the highest level.

"There is no reasonable truth or basis in the allegations against me to justify my removal," he said at his first press conference at his house in Bukit Damansara in Kuala Lumpur a day after he was removed as the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

He was referring to allegations in the four affidavits which were filed at the High Court yesterday. The allegations include corruption, sex impropriety, murder, acting as a foreign agent and posing a threat to national security.

"What I speak (of) is justice. It is tragic that government institutions have been used by people who plotted against me to frame up and fabricate charges. "If I, as the number two man in the country (until yesterday), cannot get justice and have become a victim of these allegations, then I am sorry for this country," he told the packed news conference held at the patio of his house.

Anwar, who was flanked by his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail the entire duration of the press conference, said he was given an ultimatum by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to either resign or face the consequences of being sacked or charges brought against him.

"I was not prepared to resign as I was already aware of a pact or conspiracy at the highest level to ruin me. I had repeatedly told the Prime Minister that there is conspiracy at the highest level to topple me. "They include certain Cabinet ministers, Umno Supreme Council members, corporate figures, people of substantial means and outsiders.

"I have documented evidence, tapes, as well as a sworn statement of oath to prove and defend my integrity," he said.

Anwar said a dirty and disgraceful way was resorted to by those who conspired against him because they knew that he cannot be defeated in the political arena through the democratic process.

He said he was "utterly shocked" that those who conspired against him had gone to the extent, adding that he got wind of the plot to see his downfall some three months ago.

He claimed that the allegations against him came about as he was said to be preparing to challenge the presidency in the party election next year.

He said he does not know if Dr Mahathir is directly involved in the conspiracy. "I cannot establish if the Prime Minister is directly involved, but I have pledged my loyalty to him.

"Besides my own father, I regard Dr Mahathir as a father," Anwar said.

Anwar said the police had not questioned him pertaining to the allegations even though they were said to have sufficient documents and evidence to charge him in court.

Anwar said although the conspiracy involves some Supreme Council members, he does not believe that it originated from Umno as a political party.

He, however, said that he would defend himself and his family members and had initiated the legal process.

"I will defend myself and I will prove that these are all just baseless and wild allegations made against me," he said.

"I have advised my friends to remain calm and respect the law. I will be

around for a long time," he said.

He was also asked if he agreed to the Government's decision to impose controls on currency exchange to prevent the further decline of the ringgit, he said the decision was made collectively.

"Being a member of a team, I agreed to the move," he said.

Asked what the development meant to his political career, Anwar said: "We must realise that everything is determined by Allah ... Man proposes, God disposes."

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