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Dr M: Anwar's participation at DAP gathering reflects lack of loyalty to Umno

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LANGKAWI, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's participation in a DAP gathering in Kajang on Wednesday was a true reflection of his disloyalty towards Umno.

He said if Anwar was a real Umno man, he would not have taken part in the gathering organised by the opposition party at the Sungai Chua DAP branch.

Anwar and his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail had also joined in the signing of a petition to seek a royal pardon for DAP deputy secretary-general and former MP for Kota Melaka Lim Guan Eng, who is in prison.

Asked by reporters at the Langkawi International Airport on Anwar's action, Dr Mahathir said it demonstrated where his loyalty lay.

"It seems that his personal interest is his priority... when he sees he doesn't have support in Umno, he runs to the Opposition," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Umno members would be disappointed with Anwar and would not support him.

"If the members are loyal to Umno, they will leave Anwar because he has aligned himself with the DAP and not even Pas... DAP is a party which can never be accepted by Umno," he added.

On Anwar's condemnation of the Government, Dr Mahathir said he (Anwar) had no principles.

"You can see very well that he made full use of his position in the Government to condemn others and when he is not in the Government he condemns the Government for exactly what he used to tell the people," he added.

Asked whether Anwar's roadshow was an attempt to make a comeback, the Prime Minister said: "I don't think so...making a comeback to where... Umno? Umno doesn't depend on this public demonstration of support."

On Anwar's claim that he doubted the Prime Minister's recent statement that he planned to step down this year, Dr Mahathir said he didn't tell Anwar of his intention.

"I only made public (my intention) recently because this is a decision I made myself...I promised myself and I didn't tell him," he added.

Asked why he didn't tell Anwar, Dr Mahathir said: "Certain things I didn't tell him, I don't tell him everything...we just want to see his reaction."

Dr Mahathir also pointed out that Anwar had been breaking the laws by holding illegal gatherings at his house.

"He is breaking the laws and he knows that...the law is very clear that you cannot hold gatherings of more than five people without having a permit but he seems to think that he can break the law," he said, adding that Anwar's action was more or less to challenge the police.

"That is something he should think about because he tells everybody we are very oppressive and (we) don't allow him to hold rallies but he holds the rallies without permission," he added.

Dr Mahathir also took to task the foreign Press who seemed to believe that members of the opposition could break the law and get away with it while members of the Government were bound by it (law).

"That's why when we arrested and imprisoned members of the Government or dismissed them, the foreign Press thinks that this is very normal," he

added.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had dismissed Chief Ministers, Menteri Besar and MPs of Umno and, in some cases, imprisoned them and there was also a case of a Minister being sentenced to death.

"These are all Umno members and the foreign Press never said that we are fair because we treated our members according to the law; but when we arrested and charged Lim Guan Eng (a DAP MP), (they said) that's terrible and that's oppression and depriving him of his free speech.

"But if he talks about the law being applicable to everybody then he should accept that he broke the law and should be brought to court and charged," he added.

He said Guan Eng was not even detained under the Internal Security Act.

"In the case of Guan Eng, he was tried by the court and he appealed and the court heard his appeal and all the process went according to the law," he said, adding that even then Malaysia was still accused of oppression.

"To them (foreign Press) the Opposition can do no wrong and I am quite aware if I am in the Opposition I will have the same privilege.

"At one time I was dismissed from the party and they came to see me and made reports supportive of me...but now that I am in the Government, they describe me as a mad man," he added.

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