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Discrediting judiciary part of Anwar's strategy

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Attempts by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to cast aspersions on the judiciary and the police force are part of his strategy to discredit these institutions.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this was to give the impression that the judiciary was unfair.

Dr Mahathir said in the event that Anwar was charged and subsequently found guilty, he could continue to claim that the judiciary was unfair.

"He (Anwar) is entitled to his opinion when campaigning in public, but he shouldn't, prior to being produced in court, make claims that the courts are unfair," he said after visiting several Commonwealth Games venues in Bukit Jalil this afternoon.

"If he does have the necessary evidence to prove his innocence, he is welcome to produce them before the courts," Dr Mahathir said.

Anwar was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president early this month for alleged moral misconduct.

Describing such statements as Anwar's form of defence, Dr Mahathir said: "In the event he is found guilty, he would claim that the courts were unfair and that it was a conspiracy."

Dr Mahathir joined the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Malaysian Hockey Federation president Sultan Azlan Shah to watch the national hockey team defeat Canada 2-1 and qualify for the semi-final.

After the match, the Prime Minister proceeded to the National Stadium where he watched several track and field events.

Yesterday, Anwar had claimed that he had 'black and white proof' that he was innocent and would refute allegations of treason and corruption against him.

"To prevent them from being seized by the police, I have kept them in 30 to 40 places in various parts of the country and also in Indonesia," Anwar was quoted as saying in Tanjong Karang last night.

Dr Mahathir said: "Even if the evidence is kept abroad, he is entitled to produce them...we don't have any problem."

"We have a due process of law," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar surrounded himself with people all the time, with the hope that his supporters could create problems in the event he was arrested.

"Obviously, he is hoping that in the event he is charged, all his followers are going to gather around the courts and create problems."

"In other words, he has no respect for the courts at all," the Prime Minister said.

"He wants to use that kind of pressure in order to prevent the police from taking the due legal process."

The Prime Minister expressed regret that Anwar had likened recent police actions to that of the Israeli intelligence agencies, the Shabak and the Mossad.

The Shabak or Shin Bet is the Israeli internal security agency while Mossad deals with espionage.

"If we had such a police force, the rakyat will be suffering," Dr Mahathir said. "They (the rakyat) are happy, continue to make money, watch sports ... enjoy themselves."

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