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Ex-Youth leader had interests in 44 companies

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Former Penang Umno Youth chief Abdul Rahim Ghouse, who fled the country following the arrest of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim under the Internal Security Act on Sept 20, was a director and/or shareholder of 44 companies.

A Registrar of Companies list obtained by the New Sunday Times showed that Abdul Rahim was a shareholder in 14 of them.

The companies were involved in financial services, construction, telecommunications and retailing.

His principal involvement was through the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange-listed Abrar Corporation Bhd.

Abdul Rahim, who joined Anwar's supporters in accusing the Government of cronyism, nepotism and collusion, first left for Manila. There he met with several senators and politicians to lobby for Anwar.

He is now believed to be in Jakarta.

Abdul Rahim was the executive director of Abrar Group International Bhd, but resigned from the post on Sept 18.

The ROC documents also reveal that as of Nov 21 Abdul Rahim owns 49 million shares in Abrar Group International, 399,999 shares in Global Broadcast Networks Sdn Bhd, 70,000 in ISR Consultant Sdn Bhd, 40,000 shares in BPM International Sdn Bhd and 999 in ICM Studies Sdn Bhd.

Besides the executive director's post, Abdul Rahim was a director in Abrar Health Services Sdn Bhd, Abrar Construction Sdn Bhd, Abrar Corporate Resources Sdn Bhd, Abrar Brokerage Sdn Bhd, Abrar Infrastructure Holdings Sdn Bhd, Abrar Financial Holdings (Overseas) Sdn Bhd, Abrar Frontier Management Sdn Bhd, AGI Nominees Sdn Bhd, Abrar Technologies Sdn Bhd, Abrar Corporation Bhd, Abrar Group International Sdn Bhd, Abrar Kuwait Holdings Sdn Bhd and Abrar Vision Sdn Bhd.

Others include Access Equity Sdn Bhd, NBCT Rail Sdn Bhd Sambungan Transit Antarakota Sdn Bhd, Abrar Health Services Sdn Bhd, Benar Antara Sdn Bhd, BA Engineering Sdn Bhd, Express Rail Link Sdn Bhd, Mun Loong-Hankyu Jaya Sdn Bhd, Global Broadcast Networks Sdn Bhd and ISR Communications Sdn Bhd.

Abdul Rahim, together with former Umno Youth assistant secretary Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Anwar's former political secretary in the Finance Ministry, Mohamad Ezam Mohd Nor, were expelled from Umno on Oct 6 for taking part in anti-party activities.

They had aggressively supported Anwar and the reformasi movement that the former Deputy Prime Minister initiated.

Following Anwar's arrest, the trio fled the country to purportedly seek sympathy for Anwar from politicians in neighbouring countries.

The trio continue to issue Press statements condemning the Government, in particular Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, from Indonesia and other regional locations.

Abdul Rahim was formerly deputy dean of the International Islamic University's research centre and only became active in Umno in the 90s.

He was a member of the Sama Gagah Umno branch in Anwar's Permatang Pauh division.

He became divisional Youth leader last year and was appointed Penang Umno Youth chief by former Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

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