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NOT ANWAR'S PLACE TO ASK MAHATHIR TO STEP DOWN, SAYS MUSTAPA

ROMPIN, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- It is not Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's place to ask Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to step down, Umno supreme council member Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

He said that as an ex-Umno member Anwar had no right to challenge anyone in Umno, especially Dr Mahathir.

He was commenting on the former deputy prime minister's call to Dr Mahathir to step down as prime minister before he was ousted by the people.

Anwar was dismissed from the cabinet on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno the following day amid allegations which included sexual misconduct and leaking state secrets. He has denied the allegations, claiming that there is a high-level conspiracy to destroy his political career.

On Anwar's claim that the confessions of two men yesterday that they had had sexual liaisons with him were false and forced out of them, Mustapa said that based on the confessions, no one should question the court's decision.

Anwar's adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan, 37, and his friend and former speechwriter, Dr Munawar A.Anees, 51, were jailed six months each by the Sessions Court here yesterday after they pleaded guilty to committing acts of gross indecency by allowing Anwar to sodomise them.

-- BERNAMA

ROS JK