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Shocked by veep's bouquet for street protesters

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I WAS excited when I saw the Air Force One land at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and felt honoured having the US Vice-President Al Gore together with the other heads of state in Malaysia.

But the news of Gore praising street demonstrators as brave people of Malaysia really shocked me.

For Gore's information, Malaysia is a democratic country. I am one of those Malaysians who lined up at the polling stations every five years to choose the Government.

We have all worked hard in our own way, contributing towards the prosperity of the nation. But as you must have been informed, the depreciation of our ringgit from July last year has almost destroyed all that.

The reformasi movement suddenly surged when the former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was sacked from the Government for reasons deemed appropriate by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The whole world seems to be following Anwar's trial and ordinary Malaysians are sure he will get a fair trial and are equally anxious to hear the verdict.

Along with this sacking, suddenly whatever the Government touches seem wrong. Previous policies seem to be siding certain quarters. Why not before July 1997 or before Sept 2 (the date of Anwar's sacking)?

Even when the Government wanted to help certain big corporations suffering due the depreciation of the ringgit, it was said to favour certain people and for the personal benefit of the Prime Minister.

I do not think the demonstrations would actually encourage foreign direct investment to this country. Foreign investors would prefer countries that are stable politically, peaceful and safe.