

Claims

'prove ⁴²
Anwar ✓

has

cronies'

Star 0 8 SEP 1999

MARAN. Allegations of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's supporters that the Government is targeting his close friends prove that the former deputy prime minister has cronies, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister denied that the Government was going after close associates of Anwar when the latter claimed he did not have any cronies.

"I am perplexed that when two or three people from the business circle, said to be closely associated to Anwar, were brought to court for specific charges by the authorities, they claim that the Government was purposely attacking those close to Anwar.

"The way I see it, the arrests were based on investigations that there were discrepancies in the way they dealt with their business and the Government did not single out anyone with intent.

"They also questioned why no action was taken against them (the businessmen) before and I say maybe because of a certain person's influence that no action was taken against them but now the action taken was based on the law," he told reporters after a meet-the-people session at Bandar Baru Jengka yesterday.

About 30,000 people attended the gathering. Those present included Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yaakob, Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Dr Mahathir stressed that he would not protect anyone flouting the law, even if the person was his friend.

"Action will be taken against those who break the law. I cannot be practising favouritism or protecting my close friends, including Anwar," he said.
