

Dr M: **Anwar** can't topple u s **through riots**

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KANGAR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will not succeed in toppling the Barisan Nasional Government through street riots, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the ruling Government had the full support of the people and would reject such modes of political battles.

"Anwar is trying to topple the Government through street demonstrations and riots in Kuala Lumpur but he will never succeed.

"Anwar can never topple the Government through this way and he cannot rule the country by doing this," he said at a meeting with leaders of Perlis Barisan component parties at Dewan Warisan.

Dr Mahathir said although the riots and street demonstrations had in a way tarnished the image of Malaysia among tourists, the Government had

proven its capability in handling the matter.

"He was hoping that tourists will not come as Malaysia is no more a peaceful country because of the riots.

"He wants to see our economy collapse and the prices in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange nose-dive.

"But I want to stress here that we have been able and are able to defend our country because of the integrity of the ruling Barisan Government," he said.

He said it was also because of that integrity that Malaysia was brave enough to refuse any financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund during the height of the economic turmoil in the region.

"We can afford to do this because we know that we have the full support from the people," said Dr Mahathir.