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Ezam's admission proves PM is right

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THE shocking admission by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's former political secretary Mohamad Ezam Mohd Nor that the former has kept several boxes of government documents abroad has to be taken very seriously.

Elsewhere, a person like the Parti Keadilan Nasional's Youth chief would have been detained or, at the very least, hauled up for interrogation by the security agencies.

Whatever Anwar's excuse for doing so, his action is a serious breach of the law and threat to the security of the country. These documents can be used by foreign elements to undermine the country.

When Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad alleged in Malacca on Monday that Anwar took government secrets out of the country, a lot of people thought he was making a political statement.

But when Ezam, one of Anwar's closest aides, openly told a political gathering in Teluk Intan on Wednesday that he deposited six boxes of official documents abroad, it proves the allegation.

Ezam was being either foolish to confirm the allegation or was challenging the authorities to take action against him and his former boss.

In a different situation, his admission could be seen as an attempt by a young zealous person to show just how close he was to Anwar when the latter was in the Government.

Nobody denies Ezam's closeness to Anwar. He was hand-picked by Anwar to be his political secretary at the Finance Ministry from among so many eager and more qualified contenders.

This young man, who is the son-in-law of one of Anwar's closest advisers, went on to become a zealous and outspoken Anwar strategist in and outside the country.

When several of his colleagues were detained under the Internal Security Act following Anwar's illegal reformasi marches last year, he ran to Indonesia.

There he carried out vicious anti-government propaganda for several months. Ironically, when he returned home, he was only interviewed by the police.

Some people may be encouraged to suspect that something is amiss in his relationship with the police. However, in the light of his shocking admission, the authorities may want to take a second and deeper look at the activities of this young person.

There may be a possibility that Indonesia is among the places Anwar keeps the documents. Since Ezam seems to know so much about this activity of Anwar, he could have a hand in helping his former boss.

And I do not think the Government should be cowed into not taking action against Anwar for fear of foreign media condemnation. Since when are we that concerned about what they say?