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Stop penalising those who reveal the truth

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MARINA Yusof claimed at a Press conference that the courts are under the control of the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

This is as contemptuous of the courts as can be. Yet contempt action is not taken against her.

On the other hand, Karpal Singh is forever asking the courts to take contempt action against the Prime Minister for any statement made by him about Anwar. It makes one wonder who is controlling what.

It would seem that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his cronies are more influential than the Government, or at least they are faster in making political capital out of everything.

When he was sent to the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia specifically to be examined for arsenic poisoning, the doctors there whose sympathy for the Opposition is well-known, investigated him for all kinds of diseases after it was clear that Anwar had no evidence of recent or chronic arsenic poisoning.

When the court ordered Anwar to appear before it as he seemed quite well, the doctors issued a certificate to say he was not fit to attend court.

They managed to keep him in hospital for three weeks more by doing all kinds of investigation unrelated to arsenic poisoning.

The trial was delayed. This suited Anwar's political strategy. The Government could do nothing about this blatant abuse of their profession by the doctors.

Now it is learnt that the HUKM wants to re-examine him. They are said to claim they suspect him of suffering from something.

If Anwar is returned to HUKM, he is likely to stay there for another stretch, delaying the court proceedings again.

Why the HUKM doctors have assumed responsibility for Anwar's health is not clear.

They seem to have taken over responsibility for his health without authorisation from the court or the Government.

There must be other Government doctors who are looking after Anwar's health.

Are the doctors at HUKM alleging that those doctors are incompetent and neglecting their duty?

Losing weight and hair and having high blood pressure must surely be expected of a person who suddenly finds himself in jail, especially if he was enjoying life previously.

In contrast to the freedom of Anwar's cronies to frustrate the processes of the courts, the witnesses to his misbehaviour seem to be facing hard times.

Azizan is immediately jailed for three months for committing "khalwat".

There is no known case where the Syariah Court has been as severe as this. Anwar's brother who committed the same offence has not been jailed.

Ummi Hafilda has suddenly been made a bankrupt. It may be a coincidence, but it does look like misfortune will befall anyone not on Anwar's side.

Mohd Ezam who admitted repeatedly that he has in his possession six cases of Government documents has not been questioned.

Yet, if anyone else were to admit to being in possession of Government documents, he would certainly have a hard time explaining himself to the authorities.

It seems that many are bending over backwards to lengthen the trial. If Murad is right, Anwar has set up a good network of cronies. The Government clearly has less control over these things.

Anwar is right when he spoke about cronyism and corruption. Practising these things himself he naturally assumes that others are doing the same.

Similarly as he is perpetually involved in conspiring against others, he now accuses others of conspiring against him.

Anwar's accusation that the Prime Minister favours his cronies, is corrupt and conspired against him is meant to hide the fact that he is the one doing all these.

As Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister, he certainly had ample opportunity to do so.

Murad's confession reveals the extent of Anwar's conspiracy and cronyism.

Even if we discount half of what Murad says, the extent of Anwar's operation is still very considerable.

The Asia Pacific Policy Centre's president Douglas Pall admitted receiving money from Anwar though he claims not as much as RM38 million.

Even if it is less, the question is how does Anwar come by so much money. He even reported to the police that he lost RM4 million.

With the slush fund at his disposal and his position as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Anwar seems to have built up quite a network of cronies inside and outside the Government.

The attempts to help him and the actions being taken against those who gave evidence against him, seem to suggest that the network is still intact.

We will no doubt be seeing more misfortune befalling those who reveal evidence about Anwar's conspiracy.

These people should be pitied because, despite Marina Yusof's talk about Government controls, Anwar and his crony network seem free to do anything they like.

In the process, his victims suffer.

The Government should act to stop the rot.

No doubt, we need to display to the world our openness and liberal ways. But not at the expense of those who reveal the truth.

There is a very real danger that crime will pay or at least truth frustrated.