

'Anwar politicising back woe'

STAR - 4 APR 2001

Mahathir: Ex-DPM just using it for propaganda

KUALA LUMPUR: The Prime Minister yesterday hit out at Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim over the former deputy prime minister's manner of politicising his back pain problem.

"He wants to propagandise everything. Everything is politics, there is nothing about health here," said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I don't quite agree with this special treatment given to him, which is not given to other people with backache," he said.

He said the treatment provided to Anwar was special because no other person with back pain was warded up to five months.

Furthermore, he said a so-called specialist from over-

seas was sought.

"Apparently, the anaesthetists here are not competent enough. I underwent a heart operation which involved stopping my heart for some time in order to be operated on. I trusted these very same anaesthetists."

Ironically, Dr Mahathir said the specialist had performed a similar operation in Dubai.

"I want to know how he carried out that operation in Dubai; whether he brought anaesthetists along or whether he took the instrument along," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar, right from the time he was arrested, had made claims about being injected with the AIDS virus and getting arsenic poisoning.