

Dr M afraid of 'immoral' Anwar becoming MB
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His arch nemesis wants to be the Selangor menteri besar and Dr Mahathir Mohamad admits that the prospect unnerves him.

Speaking to reporters, the former premier said the people would not feel safe if Anwar Ibrahim becomes menteri besar due to the latter's "immoral behaviour".

"As for me, Anwar is not qualified to be MB or PM. He formed a party just to become PM, and not to champion the race, religion or anything else.

"Even when he entered Umno back then, it was to become PM," he added.

Responding to Anwar's remarks during a ceramah last night where the opposition leader questioned why Mahathir was afraid of him becoming MB, he said: "Of course I am afraid (if he becomes MB)... People will not feel safe when he is around. Look what happened to his staff."

It is obvious that Mahathir was referring to Anwar's former aide Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, who accused the opposition leader of sodomising him.

The Kuala Lumpur High Court had acquitted Anwar in 2012 of the sodomy charge and this now being appealed by the prosecution.

Like his first sodomy charge, Anwar claimed that the second was also fabricated as part of a political conspiracy against him, an allegation which his rivals have denied.

Mahathir had sacked Anwar, who was then considered his heir-apparent, in 1998, claiming that he was morally unfit to be deputy prime minister.

Anwar, who is now the parliamentary opposition leader, is poised to contest in the March 23 by-election for the Kajang state seat.

Should he retain the PKR seat, the 66-year-old politician is expected to replace Khalid Ibrahim as menteri besar.

'BN must field a candidate'

Mahathir also stressed that BN must field a candidate in the polls against Anwar.

"BN should contest. Whether it is Umno, MCA, MIC or Gerakan, a BN representative must contest," he stressed.

He also welcomed the presence of independent candidates such as former de facto law minister Zaid Ibrahim and dangdut singer Herman Tino who Mahathir said was "qualified" to contest in the spirit of democracy.

"The former minister and people like Herman Tino are all qualified to contest if you follow our system. They might lose their deposit but it's okay," he said.

On the exchange between Liow Tiong Lai and Anwar over who was responsible Operasi Lalang in 1987, Mahathir appeared nonchalant and "accepted" responsibility for the incident.

"Well, if I made a mistake, I made a mistake. I am an old man. I am 89-years-old, so I am prone to forgetting. Even if the decision was made by someone else, it was in the cabinet.

"I accept responsibility. We did what was needed to ensure peace and stability in this country," he said.

Last Friday, Liow had blamed Anwar for Operasi Lalang, a police operation that resulted in the detention of 106 people, including politicians from both side of the divide, along with Chinese educationists, Christian evangelists and several human rights activists.

The detainees were held under the Internal Security Act 1969 (ISA). At the time, Anwar was a member of Mahathir's cabinet. Mahathir was abroad when Operasi Lalang took place.

In response to Liow, Anwar said the former was hiding the fact that Mahathir was prime minister at the time at that the current Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak had led an inflammatory Umno Youth rally preceding Operasi Lalang.

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