

## **I am nobody's puppet - Anwar hits back at Dr M**

**Malaysiakini**

**03 July 2023**

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has shot down insinuations that he is subservient to anyone.

This is after Dr Mahathir Mohamad claimed that the government was beholden to the DAP because of the party's numbers in Parliament.

"There are allegations that we are subservient, because of support from 'Chinese-based party' DAP which is domineering.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am the PM. I am no one's puppet.

"Thank God, I am almost 76, and I can't be bought with money. If I could be bought I would have been swayed long ago," he said at a forum in Putrajaya today.

In a social media post yesterday, Mahathir alleged that while DAP only has four ministers, it had 40 MPs whose support Anwar relied on.

"If DAP withdraws its support, Anwar's government will fall.

"Therefore, Anwar has to adhere to DAP's manifesto, especially on making Tanah Melayu a multiracial country and replacing the official religion of Islam with a secular country... (turning) Malaysia into a nation with no official religion," he alleged.

### **'No such moves'**

Anwar, however, rubbished such allegations, saying DAP never made such moves.

"They've been in the cabinet and I've been (prime minister) for seven months.

"Not once have they questioned programmes for Malays, the poor, or Islam... not once," he said.

He then took a jab at Mahathir, saying if someone had governed for decades and failed, then it is that person's fault.

"Why has the Malay economy not yet been lifted? Why must I have solved everything within seven months, with a (national) debt of RM1.5 trillion," he said.

He said unlike national debt accrued under Abdul Razak Hussein to fight poverty and establish Felda, later debt was used to fund megaprojects and misappropriation.

Meanwhile, Anwar also rubbished claims that Islam and Malays were sidelined under his administration, highlighting the greater allocations for the Islamic Development Department and Kelantan as examples.

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Source: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/670794>