

Anwar: Stop the bickering

KUALA LUMPUR: Former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the national leadership should tackle the problem of an economic slowdown instead of getting into personal feuds.

He said the bickering and quarrelling between the former and current prime ministers should stop, as it would not help the country's economic expansion.

"It is a waste of time. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi should see to it that national policies are implemented for the promotion of

more business activities and growth of the economy.

"The accusation of Malaysia being a police state is something of the past. The current leadership should not be seen continuing to propagate the climate of fear (which existed) under (Tun) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad).

"We should be looking at promoting economic growth for the prosperity for Malaysians," Anwar told reporters at his Hari Raya open house here yesterday.

He urged the Government to repeal draconian laws that

restricted media freedom and the freedom of assembly, and also called on the people to urge the administration to reform the laws.

Anwar also said that he would be stepping down as a professor at Washington's Georgetown University in December to continue with his work in Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR).

On Mohamad Ezam Mohd Nor relinquishing his post as PKR Youth chief, party president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said he had exceeded the 40-year age limit.