

Answer claims, Anwar urged

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KOTA BARU: Umno Youth wants Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to respond to reports that he had a hand in getting a highly paid job for Shaha Riza, the girlfriend of World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz, outside the organisation.

Anwar, who is the chairman of the Foundation for the Future, is alleged to have written a letter to Robin Cleveland, Wolfowitz's counsellor at the World Bank, requesting for Riza to

be transferred to the foundation.

Wolfowitz is said to have arranged the transfer, which raised Riza's salary by 36%, from US\$133,000 (RM452,000) to US\$193,590 (RM659,000), to avoid a conflict of interest.

Umno Youth deputy head Khairy Jamaluddin said Anwar must explain his role in the controversy involving Wolfowitz and Riza.

"Anwar must clarify his relationship

with Wolfowitz. He also owes it to Malaysians to explain what his motive was for becoming the head of a foundation bankrolled by the United States," he said after meeting Kelantan Umno Youth members here yesterday.

The Foundation for the Future was reportedly allocated US\$34mil (RM116mil) by the US government to promote democracy in the Islamic world, especially the Middle East.