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Anwar as PM? Only if the Israelis vote him

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KAJANG: Only the Israelites will vote Parti Keadilan Rakyat adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Well, *Haaretz* (Israeli newspaper) thinks he is going to be the prime minister. It is the only paper in the world which thinks he is going to be the prime minister... he is the prime minister that the Israelis will vote for," he said at a Malay leadership forum here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said this in response to a question whether Anwar had any credibility to be elected prime minister.

Responding to a foreign journalist who said that Anwar received a big majority in parliament in the recent elections, Dr Mahathir said: "He (Anwar) didn't get this huge majority that



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad pours cold water on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's ambition

you mention.

"(It is not) because people like him. (It) is just because Umno lost or Barisan (Nasional) lost. (The voters) showed their protest by voting for the opposition. It is not because he is popular."

He said that in 1999, with the black eye and all that, Anwar won only five seats.

"You know he had to suffer a black eye to get five seats. And in 2004, he had one seat. See? He is not popular." — Bernama