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Anwar can sue me, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tm Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim "can sue me anytime he wants".

He was responding to questions on the possibility of Anwar suing him for commenting on WikiLeaks' revelations about the opposition leader.

Media reports had claimed that Singaporean intelligence services believed the former deputy prime minister, who is facing sodomy charges, "did indeed commit the acts

for which he is currently indicted".

On Monday, his counsel, Sankara Nair, said he would be filing the complaint in court soon as the reports were subjudice and might constitute contempt of court.

WikiLeaks publishes submissions and leaks of sensitive government, corporate, organisation or religious documents while preserving the anonymity of its contributors.

"He can sue me as many times as possible. If I can't pay, I'll become a bankrupt. Then if I'm bankrupt, I'll live the life of a bankrupt," he said after giving a speech at the National

Institute of Public Administration knowledge exchange programme titled "Looking East: An Alternative Approach to the Western Paradigm of Governance" in BukitKiarahere.

Present were Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, and Malaysian Industrial Development Authority board member Datuk Ghazali Yusoff.

Dr Mahathir also commented on Malaysia's protest note to Singapore over comments made by its senior officials concerning the leadership of Malaysia and the situation in the country.

"It is a right, whether we want to exercise it or not. Some people may not want to exercise the right to complain, but some people may want to."

The note was handed over to Singapore's High Commissioner to Malaysia, T. Jasudasen, on Tuesday.

Singaporean senior officials had reportedly said Malaysia lacked competent leadership and as a result, "the situation in neighbouring Malaysia is confused and dangerous".

Singapore had expressed confidence that the WikiLeaks revelations would not hurt the republic's "ro-

bust" ties with Malaysia.

Quoting WikiLeaks, the *Sun Herald* reported that Singaporean officials told their Australian counterparts that the sodomy case was a "set-up job" and that Anwar did indeed engage in the act.

Anwar blamed the Malaysian Special Branch even though such links were never mentioned in the documents.

It had instead mentioned that the assessment was reportedly based on "technical intelligence, which likely referred to intercepted communication".