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Anwar 'undermined Dr M'

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INSULTS: Anwar called Dr M 'untrustworthy mamak', Umno division leader tells court

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim had offered a "bullet" to Seremban Umno chief Datuk Ishak Ismail to undermine then prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1998, the High Court was told yesterday.

"Towards the end of 1998, every time it seemed that I was about to criticise Tun Dr Mahathir, he (then deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim) would support and encourage my criticism and also offered me a 'bullet' to be used against Tun Dr Mahathir.

"He (Anwar) meant 'financial as-

sistance'," said Ishak in relation to the word "bullet" (*pembiayaan*) in his witness statement tendered during the hearing of former opposition leader Anwar's defamation suit against Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

During cross-examination by Anwar's counsel Latheefa Koya, Ishak, who is also the Lenggeng assemblyman, said the assistance was seen when Anwar used his clout as then finance minister to get a commercial bank to approve a loan in unspecified millions.

Ishak, 65, who was giving oral evidence on behalf of defendant Khairy, said the loan was needed to develop a plot of land commercially in Ayer Keroh, Malacca.

Ishak said Anwar's offer revealed his contradictory stances, where in public he heaped praise on Dr Mahathir but in private he uttered poisonous words against him.

"He (Anwar) always referred to then Datuk Seri (now Tun) Dr Mahathir as 'untrustworthy mamak'. The word mamak at that time referred to something offensive and insulting," said Ishak of Anwar, who he became close to in 1993. Anwar became deputy prime minister on Dec 1, 1993.

Latheefa then put it to Ishak that the use of nicknames such as "untrustworthy mamak" does not mean it was done for backstabbing purposes, to which he disagreed.

Ishak revealed that Anwar's sentiment turned into animosity and hatred against his former mentor, Dr Mahathir, in early 1998.

"This (Anwar's hostile sentiment against Dr Mahathir) was very clear

around the 1998 Umno General Assembly and thereafter," he added.

Anwar lost his position as deputy prime minister and was expelled from Umno on Sept 2, 1998. He then became involved with the opposition through PKR.

After Ishak was dismissed from the witness stand, judge Azizul Azmi Adnan set further hearing for four days from Dec 13.

Counsel Tan Sri Dr Muhammad Shafee Abdullah represented Khairy, who is also Umno Youth chief.

Anwar, 69, is suing Khairy, 40, over alleged defamatory words uttered during a political ceramah at Lembah Pantai here on Feb 19, 2008.

The words were published on online portals, including Malaysiakini, which carried an article titled *Anwar and Kin No Threat*, accompanied by a video of Khairy's speech.