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POLITICAL VENDETTA

'Dr M was first to oppose Anwar'

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KOTA TINGGI: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad must admit that he was the first person to launch a political vendetta against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim before hurling accusations at other people, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

He said the former prime minister was the only person who knew the "answers and secrets" behind Anwar's dismissal from the government in 1998 and subsequent imprisonment.

"If it is true that Anwar is a victim of a political vendetta,

then he (Dr Mahathir) was the one who started it. He must also admit everything that he had done to Anwar. He was the one who started it. Why should the current administration be the one that has to answer for it?"

He also urged Dr Mahathir to apologise to Anwar for everything he had done to his former deputy.

Khaled was speaking after attending a Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house organised by Kumpulan Pendidikan YPJ at Kolej YPJ here yesterday.

Khaled was commenting on Dr

Mahathir's recent statement, in which he claimed that Anwar was a victim of a political vendetta.

Dr Mahathir made the claim in a recent interview with *The Guardian*, during which he also voiced his support for Anwar to be prime minister.

He was quoted as saying that should the opposition win the next general election, the newly-elected government would seek a royal pardon to allow Anwar to re-enter politics.

Anwar is currently serving a five-year sentence for sodomy.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin (standing, sixth from left) and Pasir Raja assemblyman Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba (standing, seventh from right) with recipients of the Johor Menteri Besar scholarship in Kota Tinggi yesterday. PIC BY ZULKARNAIN AHMAD TAJUDDIN

