

# Anwar: Mahathir was referring to a royal family member

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SEREMBAN: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's claim that someone was attempting to oust him by pitting the Rulers against him over the Rome Statute issue was in reference to a royal family member, says PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the Prime Minister was very specific in his statement and did not refer to anyone from the ruling coalition.

"The media is rather naughty for making that sort of interpretation. The statement was very specific. The Prime Minister was making reference to a specific attempt by a particular personality in the royal

family and there was no reference to any party member.

"We need to be careful not to cast aspersions beyond what Dr Mahathir said. It was clear to me because when we had our discussion together, he did elaborate," Anwar told reporters after meeting army veterans at Bandar Sri Sendayan near here yesterday.

On Friday, Dr Mahathir announced that the government was "forced" to withdraw from ratifying the treaty following confusion created by those with political interests.

He alluded that there was "someone" getting the royalty involved in the protests against the ratification of the treaty, which the government

signed last month.

Anwar, who is the Port Dickson MP, said the government's stand on the Rome Statute was clear but added that there was a need to take into account fresh views, including from the Rulers, on the issue.

There was also a need to explain to Malaysians further about the Rome Statute, he said.