

Dr M: Anwar has no evidence to back allegations

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is all “talk” with no facts or evidence to back his allegations against the former.

Dr Mahathir took a swing at the prime minister in his reply to the latter’s statement of defence, saying that Anwar had been making numerous allegations but without providing any evidence.

The statement of claim was filed via the law practice of Rafique at the Shah Alam High Court on Thursday.

He also said that Anwar had even refused to provide any evidence when Dr Mahathir officially requested via a court application made in the RM150 million suit, which Dr Mahathir had initiated against Anwar.

“Since 1998 until the day he filed his defence, the defendant had never shown any evidence to support his claims (related to) abuse of power or nepotism, but only made repetition of his political defamation script against me. This, directly and indirectly, shows that he is someone who lies a lot.”

Dr Mahathir also denied Anwar’s allegation that he was corrupt and practised nepotism as well as cronyism and said that Anwar had traits of a “pathological liar”, who had stated a different position than what was said in his defence.

Dr Mahathir said this when explaining Anwar’s claim regarding the government’s rescue measure against KPB (now known as Pos Logistics Bhd), a company in which his son, Mirzan Mahathir, is a director and majority shareholder.

“It is illogical for the defendant to dismiss any allegations of abuse of power when the rescue measure took place and then choose to state otherwise in his statement of defence.

“The defendant himself, who was the then deputy prime minister in March 1998, told the media and defended the fact that the KPB-MISC (Malaysian International Shipping Corporation) issue was not a rescue measure but a decision based on a business decision,” he said.

Dr Mahathir insisted that there was no abuse of power that led to him “enriching” Ms children, but instead, all their business success had resulted from their own efforts and merits of the companies they owned.

He added that Anwar’s allegation that the plaintiff was an individual with billions of ringgit in wealth and who took the money abroad to avoid paying taxes were serious accusations.

He also rubbished Anwar’s allegation that claimed the suit, which was initiated by Dr Mahathir, was to create a racial di-

vide. This, he said, was a wild accusation.

“The defendant’s claim that I have just started talking about the Malays ‘after losing power’ is slanderous and untrue.

“My purpose of raising the issues about Malays is not new. (Therefore) the defendant’s statement is clearly wrong with the intention to tarnish my image as a statesman.

“Recently, I raised more issues relating to Malays to protect their welfare and rights that are being neglected, which is a well-known fact,” he said.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar’s claim of having an abundance of evidence on the abuse of power and alleged malfeasance allegedly committed by the plaintiff had created a bad perception of him in the eyes of the public.

This, he said, had distorted the public’s thinking from the actual facts and evidence since 1998.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar had not brought any evidence or facts to prove that he had abused his position when he was prime minister to earn billions of ringgit.

Dr Mahathir has filed a RM150 million defamation suit against Anwar, where he alleged the latter had defamed him by accusing him of being racist and enriching himself and his family members during his 22-year tenure as prime minister.