

# PM DENIES USING JUDICIARY FOR REVENGE

I have not interfered in judicial decisions and appointments, says Anwar

## KUALA LUMPUR

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim denies claims that he is using the judiciary to seek political revenge.

Anwar said he respected the judiciary and did not interfere in decisions by the attorney-general or judges in any case.

"If revenge was on my mind or my intention, many would have been sent to Sungai Buloh prison, but I know the need to defend the principles of adhering to the law.

"Who is to be investigated or charged is not within my powers. My powers are limited to ensuring the duties of institutions related to security and safety are carried out without fear or favour," the prime minister said in his speech at the staging of the play titled *Cikgu Anda* here on Saturday night.

Anwar said he could not order the A-G to charge anyone because charges must be accompanied by strong evidence.

"Instead, like what I have said in Parliament, I do not want to be a leader who uses power to suppress or oppress anyone."

Anwar said for seven months as the country's leader, he had nev-

er changed appointments in the judiciary.

"Whatever is presented by the committee to the chief justice will be sent to me and I just follow the process, not a single word I have amended or changed, except if the record of the judge is challenged," he said.

Anwar said the country's administration must be cleaned up and the politics of the country must avoid aspects that could tarnish the nation.

The prime minister also called on Malaysians to focus on raising education standards to create knowledgeable individuals and academicians with strong virtues and noble principles.

"No less important is the goal and meaning of education stressed by the current education minister, which is to draw strength from religion.

"What we want is to raise people with confidence, values and virtues, as other countries have managed to inculcate such values in education," he said, adding that he wanted the national language to be used in official business and academia.

"We also need to put effort into raising the discipline of knowledge so that we can compete (with other countries)," he said, stressing that this effort should be a movement and not focus on one figure.

The play *Cikgu Anda* was inspired by Anwar's contribution to education and highlights Yayasan Anda Akademik (YAA), a private educational institution

founded by a group of university graduates and headed by Anwar in March 1971.

The play is about the struggles of the foundation in helping students, especially those in rural and underprivileged areas, further their studies.

The play is produced by Persatuan Alumni Yayasan Anda Akademik Malaysia (PAYAAM) with the cooperation of Persatuan Melodi Kenangan Artis dan Penggiat Seni Malaysia.

In the foreword of the play's programme book, Anwar expressed appreciation to the production team for telling the story of the foundation to the public.

He said the foundation was founded by youth and student leaders from Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Institut Teknologi Kebangsaan (renamed Universiti Teknologi Malaysia), Lembah Pantai Islamic Teaching College and the Lembah Pantai Language Teaching College.

The 2½-hour play is the brainchild of PAYAAM chairman Datuk Dr Suhaimi Ibrahim, featuring actors Datuk Ahmad Tarmimi Siregar, Hairi Safwan, Abon, Najua P. Ramlie, Sarah Fazny and Eira Sabariah.

*Cikgu Anda* tells the story of a group of poor students who did not do well in their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examinations but are determined to take the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia at YAA. Cikgu Anwar, a co-founder of the foundation, is also a teacher there. **Bernama**