

Prosecutions were 'flawed'



Meeting the media: Anwar speaking during an interview with editors-in-chief in Subang Jaya. - YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

Post-GE14 cases driven by political vengeance, says PM

By **RAHIMY RAHIM**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

SUBANG JAYA: A slew of high-profile prosecution cases after the 14th General Election was done in a rush and full of political vengeance by those in power at that time, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"You must also know that, at that time, the pace of prosecution was hurried, driven by venom, enmity and political vengeance by those in power.

"That is why many of the prosecutions were flawed," he said.

However, Anwar did not speci-

fy the names of the leaders at that time.

He was responding to a question that was raised during an interview with editors-in-chief yesterday about the independence of the judiciary following the acquittal of Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor on money laundering and tax evasion charges.

On Thursday, the High Court acquitted Rosmah of 17 charges involving a sum of RM7mil.

The judge ruled that the charges failed to disclose essential elements of the alleged offences.

The following day, the prosecution filed an appeal.

Anwar maintained yesterday that he never interfered with the court's decision to acquit and discharge Rosmah from the 17 charges of money laundering and tax evasion.

He reiterated his commitment to upholding judicial independence and to push for governance reforms.

"In my two years in office, I have not interfered in any (court) case, never spoke to or instructed any judge on any issue."

Anwar said it was hypocritical to blame him over the court's decision.

"Now, it is up to the Court of Appeal. Let the Court of Appeal decide.

"I have my own views, but I cannot interfere; you can ask the Chief Justice," he said.

Anwar also spoke about his zero tolerance for power abuse within the Cabinet or the civil service, stating that misconduct is unacceptable under his leadership.

"I will not condone it nor compromise on any cases (if there are) involving my team in the Cabinet and the civil service. That much I can guarantee you," he said.