

Dr M: Israel's claims are to defend Anwar
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SERDANG: Israel is trying to support Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim by providing statistics that Malaysia allegedly has trade ties with the country, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We have no diplomatic ties with Israel but the report is to ensure Anwar is not being chided for his links with many people in Israel," he said.

Anwar had come under heavy criticism for reportedly saying in an interview with *The Wall Street Journal* that he supported "all efforts to protect the security of the state of Israel".

NGO Solidariti Anak Muda Malaysia has urged the International Trade and Industry Ministry to reveal any alleged commercial dealings with Israel.

He also cautioned Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak that Israel and its allies were allegedly attempting to have a regime change using Anwar.

"I do not think I should advise him (Najib) but I would like to warn that Anwar is the candidate for a regime change," he said.

On the out-of-court settlement between former Malaysia Airlines chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli and Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd, Dr Mahathir said voters should decide for themselves if this was a cover-up.

"This is a democratic country and voters can decide to vote out the Government if they felt it is sweeping things under the carpet," he said.

On Tuesday, a three-man panel of the Court of Appeal was told that the six-year legal battle between Tajudin and Danaharta had been settled out-of-court over the latter's claim of RM589.1mil.

However, the terms of settlement were not revealed.

Meanwhile, DAP national publicity secretary Tony Pua wants the Government to explain why it decided to "write off" the RM589.1mil payment to MAS.

"In a shocking decision by the Government, Danaharta has been instructed to 'settle' the suits in the Court of Appeal by completely writing off the outstanding debt from Tajudin and causing an immediate loss of RM589.1mil," Pua said.

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