

**Dr Mahathir Ticks Off Foreign Governments For Criticising Court Verdict On Anwar
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has taken some foreign governments to task for criticising a court decision to uphold the conviction and five-year jail sentence of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for sodomy.

The former prime minister said it was not for them to take a moral high ground to make such a criticism.

"They should criticise themselves," he told reporters after delivering a talk entitled, 'The Malaysian Dilemma', organised by the Centre For A Better Tomorrow, here, today.

A number of countries have reportedly been critical of the outcome of Anwar's final appeal at the Federal Court on Tuesday against his conviction and jail sentence for the sodomy offence against his former aide.

On calls by certain quarters for President Barack Obama's administration to make Anwar's release from prison a top priority, Dr Mahathir said others with differing opinions could also make counter petitions.

Anwar lost his final appeal against his conviction for sodomising Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan in 2008. The court also upheld the five-year jail sentence as ruled by the Court of Appeal.

With this ruling, Anwar, 67, faces disqualification as the member of parliament for Permatang Pauh, raising the prospect of a by-election for the seat.

On talks that Anwar's daughter, Nurul Nuha, 30, might be named as candidate for the seat, Dr Mahathir sarcastically said, "Of course, it is a family party...family party must be replaced by family lah."

Anwar's wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail is the president of PKR, of which Anwar is the advisor, while their eldest daughter Nurul Izzah is party vice-president and the Lembah Pantai MP.

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