

**It was wrong of me to sack Anwar, says Dr Mahathir**  
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FORMER prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said if he could turn back time, he would not have sacked his deputy, Anwar Ibrahim.

In an interview with Sin Chew Daily, the Pakatan Harapan chairman said he made the wrong decision in firing Anwar, but he "had no choice".

He said he "should not have followed the law completely" in making the decision.

"From a political point of view, I would not have done this (sacking Anwar). When I was the prime minister, I promised myself not to do anything that would make people hate me," he was quoted as saying.

Dr Mahathir said he had no option but to sack Anwar after police presented evidence to him.

He said if he were truly a dictator, as many have called him, he could have ordered that Anwar be jailed immediately.

Instead, he said, Anwar got a trial.

"I was angry with police. I asked them why they didn't give him a trial. They didn't tell me initially, but later said they had given him a 'black eye'.

"But, I insisted that he be given a trial."

Anwar, after being sacked from the posts of deputy prime minister and finance minister, was jailed in 1999 after being found guilty of corruption.

Dr Mahathir said he only had the power to fire Anwar from the two posts, and that it was the Umno Supreme Council's decision to sack Anwar as the party's deputy president.

"We had a Supreme Council meeting until 4am. Everyone had a chance to speak.

“They not only didn't want him to be deputy president, but they also didn't want him in the party.

"It was not my decision." – March 12, 2018.

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