

Anwar's sacking 'unconstitutional'

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PUTRAJAYA: The Court of Appeal was told yesterday that the dismissal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister was unconstitutional.

Counsel Karpal Singh said former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had to seek the audience of the King and then advise him on the matter.

"But Dr Mahathir sacked Anwar and

then informed the Yang di-Pertuan Agong which is unconstitutional," he said in his submission.

Anwar is appealing against a High Court decision which struck off his suit against Dr Mahathir and the government following his dismissal on Sept 2, 1998.

Karpal said Anwar was not seeking to be reinstated to the Cabinet but was seeking damages.

Senior federal counsel Asmabi Mohamad said the King acted in accordance with the advise of the Cabinet or a minister and when Dr Mahathir conveyed his decision to revoke Anwar's appointment, the King did not object to it.

Judges Datuk Zulkefli Ahmad Makinudin, Datuk Raus Sharif and Datuk Heliliah Mohd Yusof heard the appeal and judgment was reserved.