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Headline: Anwar: I have excellent access to Dr Mahathir

PETALING JAYA: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says he is lucky to have excellent access to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, so that it's not easy for people to sow the seeds of discord between them.

He said it was of utmost importance to him and PKR leaders that they gave their undivided support to Dr Mahathir to ensure a peaceful transition and to ensure that major reform agendas were effectively implemented.

"To me, that is central, and not to take issues that sow the seeds of discord between me and Dr Mahathir.

"Fortunately for me, I have excellent access to Dr Mahathir, otherwise there would be 'whisperings' with intention to sow discord," Anwar told a press conference here on Friday (Sept 21).

Anwar said this after reporters asked him to clarify what he said during a lecture in Singapore on Thursday (Sept 20) on how he felt about watching Dr Mahathir being sworn in as Prime Minister.

In a candid dialogue session with hundreds of students from various schools at the Singapore Management University, he had said that if he was honest, he would say that he did feel the person being sworn in as Prime Minister should have been him, not Dr Mahathir.

He said he was telling the students how delighted he was by the enormous support of the people for Pakatan Harapan having formed the government under Dr Mahathir.

"Then they questioned me about my personal feelings because I was supposed to lead (Pakatan).

"I said of course, if I was not in prison, then I (would have) wanted to be there. But that time, I was still in prison. So they laughed," he explained.

"I have said unequivocally that the support (for Dr Mahathir) must be firm from all the component parties of Pakatan," added Anwar.