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Anwar: I instructed an officer to lodge report

DEPUTY Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he instructed one of his officers to lodge a police report regarding two letters sent to the Prime Minister, containing malicious and false allegations on his (Anwar's) alleged involvement in sexual affairs.

Reports said he had been informed that police had conducted their investigations and their findings were submitted to the Attorney-General.

"I, therefore, leave the matter with the Attorney-General who will decide on the next course of action," he told the Dewan Rakyat.

Anwar said this when he stood up to clarify statements made by Karpal Singh (DAP-Jelutong) who was debating the 1998 Budget proposals.

Karpal, during the debate, said Anwar should have lodged a police report for criminal defamation against the persons responsible for writing the two letters sent to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad alleging that Anwar was involved in a sex scandal.

Anwar said the two persons said to have written the letters swore that there was no truth in the contents and that they were made use of by certain people.

Anwar said of the four people questioned by the police, two had claimed to be police officers.

He caught the House by surprise when he stood up twice to clarify statements made by Karpal.

Karpal said Anwar must clear his name by lodging a police report although Dr Mahathir had made it clear that the contents of the two letters were baseless.

* THE active presence of local unit trust institutions during the depressed stock market has been somewhat successful in preventing share prices from declining further.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Affifuddin Omar said the roles and contributions by local unit trusts funds to maintain the stability of the share market are limited.

Affifuddin was replying to a question from Wan Mohd Jamin Wan Mahmood (Tumpat-Pas) on the success of the unit trust agencies in the strengthening of the local stock market.

* THE implementation of the steps outlined by the Government in tackling the balance of payments deficit is expected to reduce it to 4 per cent of the gross national product in 1998.

In a written reply to Robert Lau Hoi Chew (BN-Sibu) and Tiong Thai King (Lanang-DAP), Affifuddin said some of the steps were outlined during the tabling of 1998 Budget recently.

* DEPUTY Works Minister Datuk Railey Jeffrey said the Government is currently conducting a review on the toll rates at the North-South Expressway.

Several negotiations had taken place between the Government and the concession company, PLUS Bhd, to re-study the concessions conditions, including the toll rate issue.

"So far, no agreement had been reached and the Government will continue to negotiate with PLUS," he said in reply to a question by Mohd Zihin Mohd Hassan (BN-Larut).

Replying to a supplementary question by Dr Tan Seng Giaw (Kepong-DAP), Railey said the Government had to pay RM176 million to PLUS last year because of the nine month delay in allowing Plus to impose the 33.3 per

cent toll increase.

* THE shortage for fish for food is expected by the 2010 when demand exceeds supply by 16 per cent.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Tengku Dr Mahmud Mansor said the demand for food fish will increase from 0.84 million tonnes in 1995 to 1.71 million tonnes in 2010.

"We can only come up with 1.44 million metric tonnes of food fish by 2010, while demand is expected to be about 1.71 million tonnes," he said when replying to a question from Datuk Salamon Selamat (BN-Shah Alam).

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