

03 SEP 1997

NO BANKERS TO BE CHARGED, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- No local bankers are to face court charges for alleged manipulation of the stock market, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

When approached on the matter by reporters here, he said such talk was untrue.

Anwar was asked whether there was credence in talk that a Tan Sri was involved in recent stock market manipulation which caused share prices to plunge.

"Not true...that's only a rumour," he said.

Such talk was rife following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the government would take punitive action against locals who helped foreign manipulators sabotage the economy.

Dr Mahathir had also said that the government had directed banks to cease share loans for short-selling.

The prime minister had warned that banks ignoring the directive would have their licences revoked.

Short-selling refers to repeated sales without the use of share scrips.

Last Monday deputy finance minister Datuk Dr Affifudin Omar disclosed that one or two banks were being investigated in connection with alleged manipulation of the stock market. -- BERNAMA

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