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Sex allegation: Anwar won't pursue matter

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SHAH ALAM, Mon. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today that he would abide by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's stand that the accusation that he was involved in a sex scandal was baseless and, therefore, should not be pursued.

Anwar was asked by the Press whether or not he was planning to take legal action against the people responsible for making the allegation.

He said although he had reasons to believe that several people were involved, the allegation they made was fitnah (slander) and politically motivated.

"As the Prime Minister had advised, the matter should be put to rest as the accusation was baseless and absurd," he said.

Furthermore, he said, the Prime Minister had revealed that the people who wrote the letter to him had denied its contents.

He said this was not the first time that he faced such allegations, but the latest one was the most concerted and well-orchestrated to date. Anwar had earlier opened the national-level Women's Day celebrations at Dewan Jubli Perak.

In a separate development, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Norian Mai told the Press in Kota Kinabalu that the case was closed.

He said the police had completed investigations into the matter as ordered by Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir told the Press that talks of Anwar being involved in a sex scandal was a fitnah and politically motivated.

He also said the accusations were the work of groups out to prevent Anwar from succeeding him as Prime Minister.

Anwar said whom he suspected was not important as the matter had been cleared up, adding that since Dr Mahathir had made a very clear statement on the issue, he personally was reluctant to pursue it further.

"Every time there is a general assembly, party election or general election, there will be a case (like this). That is not new, and you (the Press) are also aware of it, but you are too polite then to ask me," he said.

Asked why the allegations resurfaced at this time, Anwar said, it could probably be due to the fact that he faced no difficulties in carrying out his duties and his relationship with Dr Mahathir was excellent when he was made acting Prime Minister for two months in June and July.

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