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IGP: Allegations against Anwar baseless, former police officer arrested

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PENANG, Tues. - Police investigation into two letters alleging a sexual scandal involving Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim found the charges to be untrue.

In the course of the investigation, police arrested a former police officer, believed to be an inspector, for complicity in the writing of the letters and for posing as a Special Branch officer.

Police are looking for another man believed to be an accomplice.

Announcing this today, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor said the writers of the two letters - a man and a woman - were placed under remand but were later released.

He hoped that with the finding, the people would cease to circulate the letters.

Speaking to reporters at the Penang police headquarters, Rahim said:

"A police report about the poison pen letters was lodged by an official in the Deputy Prime Minister's Office last month.

"Based on our investigation, we believe the contents of the letters are not true.

"We consider the case solved as far as the contents of the letters are concerned."

Rahim arrived here this afternoon to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the marine police.

He said the writers of the letters had admitted their wrongdoings and that what they had written was untrue.

They also said they were sorry for causing so much "misunderstanding and bad talk".

He believed they could have written the subsequent letters after learning that their original letters were being circulated "here and there in town".

He said police had copies of the letters of regret.

Rahim said the writers were arrested under section 117 of the Penal Code.

He, however, did not say when they were arrested or released.

It is understood that they were arrested at a house in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, late last month.

He also declined to say if action would be taken against them for defaming Anwar or for writing the poison pen letters.

Rahim said a few days ago, a former police inspector was picked up in Kuala Lumpur for "playing a role in the case".

Asked what role he had played, Rahim would only say the man posed as a Special Branch officer when introducing himself to the letter writers.

Rahim said the former inspector was used by certain persons who were behind the poison pen letters.

Police, he said, knew their identities but declined to elaborate.

Rahim said police were considering taking legal action against the former inspector if there was sufficient evidence.

Asked what would he be charged with, Rahim said the man had posed as a Special Branch officer and the charge would be related to that.

"At this stage, I cannot say we have conclusive proof against him. But there is reasonable suspicion.

"He and another person were involved. We are now looking for the other person as we know his identity. We will get him."

Rahim declined to say what was the motive behind the circulation of the poison pen letters.

Asked if it could be political, he said, it was not for him to say, and that reporters could reflect upon it.

When told that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said it was politically motivated, Rahim said:

"That is the view of the Prime Minister. We will not go beyond saying the barest minimum about any case we are investigating."

Pressed further, the IGP said: "Only God knows."

Rahim appealed to members of the public who had copies of the letters to surrender them to the police, otherwise there would be no end to it. He added that the matter was serious as it involved the Deputy Prime Minister.

To a question about a police report lodged against Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid by Pas members for allegedly making seditious remarks at the recent State Umno convention, Rahim said:

"We are investigating the report. We have not closed the matter. The report was made, I think, by one Mahfuz Omar. It is under investigation."

Sanusi was alleged to have said that he would order the people, especially Umno members, to go all out to fight those who made uncalled for remarks about the Prime Minister "until there is a bloodbath".

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