

Anwar trial within a week

S 23. 9. 98

Ex-DPM to face a dozen sex-related charges

By DEVID RAJAH

BANTING: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will be produced in court within a week and charged with a dozen counts of sex-related offences, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Mohd Ghazali said yesterday.

He said Anwar was supposed to have been charged on Monday but because of his supporters, who gathered outside the courts in Kuala Lumpur, police had to postpone the move.

Tajol Rosli refuted foreign news reports that

Anwar would be detained indefinitely under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

"He will be charged based on the same reasons why the Prime Minister sacked him," he told reporters after a meeting with Kuala Langat Umno members.

Also present at the briefing were Umno Youth Information chief Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar and parliamentary secretary of the Finance Ministry Datuk Dr Shafie Salleh.

"The charges are all related to sex scandals and not for other reasons," he

added.

He advised Anwar's supporters, who had been asking the Government to uphold the law, to allow Anwar to be charged.

"Allow the legal proceedings to commence," he said, adding that the people should have faith in the judiciary and not presume that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad could influence the judiciary.

"If Dr Mahathir was controlling the judiciary, Umno would not have been declared illegal in 1987," he said.

Tajol Rosli said Dr Ma-

hathir decided to sack Anwar after listening to a tape, allegedly containing conversations between the latter and a businessman's wife, and after interviewing the victims of the alleged sex scandal.

Asked if Anwar would still be detained under the ISA after he was charged, Tajol Rosli said it depended on the situation.

He said there was a grand plot to topple the Government using the same tactics used in Indonesia and the police had to control the situation by detaining those involved.

"Those who disrupt in-

ternal security and public order will be stopped. And no one is above the law. More are expected to be arrested and the number could be more than those arrested in 1987," he said.

Tajol Rosli urged Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, to refrain from making statements that would disrupt peace and order.

"We will not hesitate to take action even against her," he said, adding that the police meant business in keeping law and order in the country.

List of those arrested under Section 73 (1) (A) of the Internal Security Act:

1. Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim
2. Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi
3. Negri Sembilan Umno Youth chief Ruslan Kasim
4. Semarak state assemblyman Kamaruddin Mat Noor
5. UIA student affairs director Prof Dr Siddiq Baba
6. Institute of Policy Research chairman Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar
7. Cheras Umno division head Tamunif Mokhtar
8. National Muslim Students Association of Malaysia president Amidi Datuk Abdul Manan
9. Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (Abim) president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman
10. Abim deputy president Mukhtar Redhuan
11. Abim secretary-general Shaharuddin Badaruddin
12. Abim deputy national president Abdul Halim Ismail
13. Lumut Umno Youth chief Dr Zamri Abdul Kadir