

21/11/1998

A-G studying official report on alleged assault of Anwar

Sarban Singh

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah has received the report on the investigation into claims by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim that he was assaulted while in police custody.

Disclosing this today, Mohtar said he received the report yesterday from the special team formed to investigate the claims.

Anwar, 51, who is facing five charges of corrupt practices and five counts of sodomy, had claimed he was assaulted by the police while being detained under the Internal Security Act when he appeared in court on Sept 29.

Spotting a bruised left eye, Anwar told the court he was punched and slapped by the police.

The former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, sacked on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno the following day, subsequently lodged a police report the same day.

Mohtar said the Attorney-General's Chambers received the official report yesterday from the special team headed by Malacca Criminal Investigation Department head, Assistant Commissioner Mat Zain Ibrahim.

Other members of the team included senior police officers of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Mat Zain, 48, with 23 years of experience in the police force, was seconded to the Federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman to carry out the task.

The team was set up to ensure it was independent and not connected with the Special Branch in any way.

Mohtar said he and senior officers from the prosecution department of his Chambers would now be "studying and examining" the report.

"We will announce the next course of action soon."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister, had said that if the investigation into Anwar's allegations showed the police had indeed harmed Anwar, action would be taken.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would not tolerate any unlawful police action.

However, he cautioned that it would be wrong for anyone to put the blame on the police for the alleged assault until after this had been carefully determined.

Two senior consultant specialists from the Kuala Lumpur Hospital also examined Anwar for his bruised eye.

They were Datuk Dr Kew Siang Tong who is attached to the Department of Medicine and Datuk Dr Muhamad Borhan Tan, who is with the Institute of Orthopaedic and Traumatology.

Anwar is being held at the Sungai Buloh prison since he was released from ISA detention on Oct 14.

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