

27/10/1998

`ACA well aware of Anwar's allegations'

THE Anti-Corruption Agency is aware of allegations of bribery, corruption, abuse of power and cronyism made by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim against Cabinet Ministers and Umno leaders, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Datuk Othman Abdul, the Parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's Department, said, however, the allegations were too general for the ACA to act on. He was replying to a question from Tan Kok Wai (DAP-Cheras), who asked whether the ACA would investigate the allegations.

In a supplementary question, Tan asked whether more details of those awarded privatisation projects - such as how many shares they own - would be released to the public, for the purpose of transparency.

Othman said cronyism was not practised, but for people who have the means and eligibility, projects were awarded to them.

"However, if Bumiputeras are awarded projects, they are described as cronies. This is not fair," he said, and advised Tan to refer to the Registrar of Companies for more details.

In another supplementary question, Datuk Badruddin Amiruldin (BN-Yan) asked for the Government's assurance for transparency and absence of corruption.

Othman said the Government did not practise favouritism.

Badruddin had also asked if the Government would act against government scholarship holders involved in demonstrations and riots.

In reply, Othman said students' involvement in riots and demonstrations could threaten peace.

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