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Alleged assault: A-G gets forensic help

Leslie Andres

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - A consultant in forensic medicine has been appointed to assist the Attorney-General in assessing medical reports submitted to his Chambers in relation to the alleged assault of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody.

Dr Abdul Rahman Yusof, who is a forensic specialist consultant at Kuala Lumpur Hospital, would assist Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah to go through reports concerning forensic evidence.

In a statement released today, the A-G's Chambers said Mohtar was still studying the outcome of the investigation.

"The results would be announced as soon as possible," the statement said.

The report was handed over to the A-G's Chambers on Nov 19 by the special police team, formed to investigate Anwar's allegation.

Anwar, 51, who is facing five charges of corrupt practices and five counts of sodomy, claimed he was assaulted while being held under the Internal Security Act.

He made his claim when he appeared in court on Sept 29.

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

He lodged a police report the same day.

Anwar was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno the following day.

The special team formed to look into Anwar's allegations was headed by then Malacca Criminal Investigation Department chief Assistant Commissioner Mat Zain Ibrahim, who has since been promoted to the rank of senior assistant commissioner II and transferred as CID chief of Kuala Lumpur.

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

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister, said if the investigation into Anwar's allegations showed the police had indeed harmed him, 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 determined.

Two senior consultant specialists from the Kuala Lumpur Hospital had 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 his release from ISA detention on Oct 14.

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