

21 SEP 1998

Anwar-ISA

ANWAR IBRAHIM MAY BE DETAINED UNDER THE ISA

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was arrested at his house last night, may not be charged in court today but detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor, contacted by Bernama early today, said that Anwar would not be produced before the court to face charges today.

Kuala Lumpur Police Chief Datuk Kamarudin Mohamed Ali and Anwar's lawyers last night said that Anwar was expected to be produced before the Magistrate's Court here today.

Asked whether Anwar would be detained under the ISA since he would not be produced before the court today, Rahim said: "Yes...."

However, Rahim said that investigations would continue and he did not dismiss the possibility that Anwar would be charged in court sometime later.

Asked for the reasons for Anwar's arrest, he said that the arrest was made because Anwar was found to be involved in disrupting public order and breaking the peace, here yesterday.

Rahim declined to disclose where Anwar is being detained but confirmed that he was taken to the Bukit Aman police headquarters last night.

He also said that Negeri Sembilan Umno Youth chief Ruslan Kassim, a strong supporter of Anwar, was also arrested last night as he was suspected to be responsible for the disruption of public order.

Yesterday afternoon, Anwar addressed a gathering of thousands of his supporters at the National Mosque and later proceeded in a procession to the Merdeka Square.

Later, a group of his supporters made their way to the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) where the Umno headquarters is located and created a disturbance causing some damage to property.

They then marched to Sri Perdana, the official residence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Jalan Damansara where they became unruly and the police were forced to fire tear gas and water cannons.

Anwar was removed from the Cabinet on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno the following day for alleged moral misconduct. Last Saturday, two men pleaded guilty in the Sessions Court to having been sodomised by Anwar.

Since his dismissal, Anwar has launched what he termed as a "reformation movement" and addressed a series of public rallies without police permits.

On the allegations by Anwar's lawyers that the police were rough when making the arrest, Rahim said that such allegations were merely to highlight alleged police brutality.

Meanwhile, thousands of Anwar's supporters gathered peacefully at the premises of the Magistrate's Court in Jalan Raja this morning.

However, up to 11am, Anwar was still not brought to court.

Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, and his lawyers were at the court premises since 9am.

The police were on standby and the situation was under control.

-- BERNAMA

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