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Anwar pressured us to stop probe, says IGP

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor said today Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had put pressure on the police to stop their investigations into two poison-pen letters in August last year in an attempt to ensure that he was not implicated.

He said Anwar, then the Deputy Prime Minister, was practically "breathing down our necks" and wanted the police to do something to ensure allegations of his (Anwar's) sexual improprieties mentioned in the letters would lead to nowhere, thus not tarnishing his name.

In a separate development, police arrested Anwar's former private secretary Mohamed Azmin Ali this morning. Criminal Investigation Department director Datuk Yaacob Mohd Amin, who confirmed the arrest, declined further comment.

Speaking after inspecting the new police museum at Taman Tasik Perdana, Rahim repeated his earlier statement that police had gathered "massive evidence" and would be charging Anwar in court soon.

He also said police took offence to Anwar's remarks which likened police action in arresting his former aides and friends to those of the Israeli intelligence agencies, the Shabak and the Mossad.

The Shabak or Shin Bet is the Israeli internal security agency while Mossad deals with espionage.

"This (Israel) is a very sensitive word in the country. We could understand if (out of anger) he were to accuse us of acting like pirates but comparing us with the Israelis is unacceptable."

Saying that he was compelled to explain and defend the action taken by his officers who had been working hard to complete the investigations, Rahim advised Anwar not to "step beyond the limit" in criticising the police.

He said Anwar had made many statements which made the police uneasy and uncomfortable in their investigations which had been carried out fairly, when Anwar was in, and now out of the Government.

Anwar, who was sacked as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Sept 2 and subsequently expelled from Umno for alleged moral misconduct, yesterday called on the police to use the rule of the law and not law of the jungle.

He claimed that when police arrested his former secretary Mohamed Ahmad at the Finance Ministry, Mohamed's wife and family members were warned not to alert anyone.

He had questioned this alleged action, saying it was like those adopted by the Israeli intelligence agencies.

Rahim also expressed surprise over Anwar's change in attitude towards the police, saying he had been "comfortable" with the force when he was in the Government.

"But now, since wearing a different hat, his attitude, perception and impression of us have changed.

"Our action now is neither more or less than what we have done before," he said, adding that the police had not changed their "hat" just because Anwar was no longer in the Government.

On the museum, Rahim said it would be officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 1.

Occupying the former Federal police mess near the National Planetarium, it cost RM4.9 million to renovate the building and set up the museum.

He said the police force had a long history and the museum could become a referral centre for those interested to know more about the force.

"The exhibits will be changed periodically. We also plan to organise other activities such as talks by former police officers involved in the fight against communist insurgency."

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