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`Anwar safe and sound, will be put on trial soon'

PETALING JAYA, Thurs. - Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor said former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is under police custody since Sunday, is "safe and sound" and will be tried in an open court soon.

"There will be a fair trial in court. That is our system (which is) similar to the British (legal) system," he told a Press conference today.

Abdul Rahim also reminded Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to stop making wild allegations against the police, adding that baseless remarks against the police could land her in trouble and make things difficult.

"We are investigating her allegations.

"In the present situation, we hope that no party will make any allegation that will only land them in trouble," he said, adding that a report had been lodged against Dr Wan Azizah following her allegations.

In an interview with an overseas television station, Dr Wan Azizah claimed that she feared for Anwar's safety as she believed that he would be injected with the virus that caused AIDS.

As a result of her seditious allegation, she had been called to the Federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman twice where her statements were recorded.

Abdul Rahim also said police continued their investigation into Anwar following the ones initiated by former Inspector-General of Police Tun Hanif Omar.

Hanif had yesterday said he had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1993 that Anwar had homosexual tendencies based on "convincing evidence" gathered by his officers.

Abdul Rahim, when asked on Hanif's statement, said: "If I could sum it up from what I gathered from the local news reports today, Hanif was trying to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

He also denied what the foreign media described as police brutality against demonstrators near the magistrate's court in Jalan Raja on Monday.

Abdul Rahim said the foreign media had overplayed the incident without considering police responsibility in maintaining public order and security.

A foreign journalist alleged that police had used excessive force on demonstrators on Monday while waiting for police to produce Anwar in court.

Despite Abdul Rahim's explanation during a Press conference at the Kelana Jaya police station today, the foreign journalist kept on alleging police brutality.

When asked why police used the Internal Security Act to detain Anwar, Abdul Rahim said police were carrying out their duties within the law enforced by the Government.

On the remark by an Australian journalist that no civilised nation would treat demonstrators the way the Malaysian police did on Monday, Abdul Rahim said it was not true.

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