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Anwar says Government has no concrete case against him

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Sacked Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today spoke of the possibility of him being charged in court but said he did not believe the Government has a concrete case against him.

He went on to rebut Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's explanation that he was removed from the Government and Umno due to moral misconduct.

He maintained that he was a victim of political conspiracy promoted by Dr Mahathir's inner circle, who, he said, were afraid of him.

"They are afraid of my attitude, policies and the support of the people. That is the reason why they concocted lies and fabrication against me," he told a gathering in the compound of his house in Bukit Damansara today.

Later in the evening, when speaking to another group of visitors at his home, Anwar said he was probably sacked from the Government and party because he was close to United States Defence Secretary William Cohen.

Anwar added that just because he was close to Cohen did not necessitate his removal.

He also claimed that his senior private secretary Ahmad Mohamad was detained by police yesterday.

In his speech earlier, Anwar said: "If what he (Dr Mahathir) meant as concrete evidence is based on police investigation, I think he better check it out first.

"First of all, none of the allegations are true. There is no reason for them to charge me with those crimes.

"I have a family and I am a politician. If someone wants to challenge me, please do so. Why do these people fabricate lies against me?"

Anwar said the cases the authorities had implicated him with were based on the affidavits submitted in connection with the Datuk S. Nallakaruppan case.

"Even before Datuk Nalla's lawyers could object to the affidavits, its contents were published in the newspapers," he said.

"However, when Datuk Nalla issued a denial, it was not used in these newspapers."

On the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor's statement that he lied about DNA test, Anwar said his former private secretary Mohamed Azmin Ali and his wife and he (Anwar) and his wife had agreed to undergo the test, should the test conducted on Azmin and his wife proved inconclusive.

"The test by Azmin and wife proved that they were the biological parents of the child and even the IGP had said it.

"Since it had been proven, why should I have to undergo the test, I think the IGP should stick to his duty," said Anwar.

On charges he had interfered with police investigation by threatening witnesses, Anwar asked: "Why should I do this? I am not in the Government. I am not the police who had the powers to intimidate people."

He added: "Now they are also accusing me with receiving RM60 million in bribe. Look at the condition of my house.

"Check if I have another house. They should seek out those with castles if they really want to check corruption."

Asked what he thought of Dr Mahathir's explanation to Umno leaders yesterday, Anwar pointed to the reporter who asked the question, and said:

"You can discuss this with the PM. By the way, my statement will not

come out in the newspaper. Even if it is published, given two lines, it will be big enough."

Anwar, who had postponed his roadshow twice, said he would embark on it soon.

"I am not going today as my supporters want me to stay here as their families and relatives are coming to KL to meet me due to the school holidays," he said.

At a Press conference later, Anwar said he was not criticising Umno or attacking the Government when he presented his defence to the people.

Anwar said he was grateful for the support from the middle class, the professionals and the very poor who came to see him even for the chance to hear him speak.

On the criticism made against him for using the foreign media, Anwar again repeated his stand that he was being fair to all, both the local and foreign media.

"But only the foreign media are using my story. Should I be angry with them?" he asked.

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