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Police-Anwar

ANWAR TRIED TO INTERFERE IN POLICE INVESTIGATIONS INTO "50 DALIL..."

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim tried to interfere in police investigations into the book "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Menjadi PM" (50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become PM), Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor said today.

He said the police received four police reports of Anwar's interference between July and August, this year.

Anwar was removed from the cabinet of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Wednesday and was expelled from Umno on Thursday.

Rahim was speaking at a news conference called following allegations by Anwar that the police were involved in a conspiracy at the highest level against him.

"Besides the four police reports, we have other evidence that he had taken persistent and consistent measures to influence the way and the manner the police investigations were being conducted for his own benefit," he said.

Abdul Rahim said that these evidence would be produced before the court if necessary.

He said that in two of the police reports, Anwar was alleged to have intimidated witnesses so that they would not cooperate with the police in the investigations into the book.

The third police report alleged that Anwar had abused his position as deputy prime minister and minister of finance to ensure that the police would discontinue investigations against him and his friends so that the case would not land in court, he said.

Abdul Rahim said that the fourth police report alleged that Anwar tried to tamper with evidence during the police investigations.

The IGP however did not disclose the names of the people who lodged the police reports.

He gave an assurance that the police was acting on the police reports and investigations under Section 3 (3) of the Police Act would be as fair as can be.

On Anwar's allegation that the police were involved in a conspiracy to see his downfall, Abdul Rahim said that the police did not have the locus standi to comment on statements with political undertone, under Section 3 (3) of the Police Act 1967.

However, he said, the police had acted professionally and within the scope of the cardinal principle of the police force.

He said Section 3 (3) of the Police Act 1967 states that: "The Force shall be subject to this Act and shall be employed in and throughout Malaysia including the territorial waters for i) the maintenance of law and order, ii) the preservation of peace and security of Malaysia, iii) the prevention and detection of crime, iv) the apprehension and persecution of offenders and v) the collection of security intelligence.

"What we can say is that we are acting on the four police reports for the sake of the dignity and image of the police force and to fulfil Section 3 (3)," he said.

"What we have done so far was to investigate the four police reports pertaining to the book, including by Anwar," he said.

Abdul Rahim said that the police investigations covered the entire book "from the cover to the back page" including the part relating to a police

report alleging that Anwar had an illegitimate child.

He said that the police conducted the investigations with full responsibility and professionalism based on the laws or procedures including the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

The police, after a thorough and careful investigation on that part of the book relating to the illegitimate child, found it not to be true.

"When we were really certain, we referred to the Attorney-General and brought it to court. We are not biased," he said.

"Therefore, I feel and it is my hope and that of the top police line-up that following this clarification, the public will be aware and understand that it is not true that we are not professional and biased...," he said.

Asked how the police had determined that the allegation on the illegitimate child was not true, Abdul Rahim said that as a result of a DNA test conducted by the police through the Chemistry Department, it was proven that the child was fathered by Azmin Ali (Anwar's private secretary).

He said that the DNA test was conducted using the blood specimen taken from Azmin, his wife and the child.

After obtaining the result of the DNA test, he said, police handed it over to the Attorney-General's Chambers and the author of the book was then charged in court.

Asked to comment on Anwar's statement that two DNA tests were conducted, one here and one abroad, Abdul Rahim said that the DNA test conducted by the Chemistry Department did not use blood specimen obtained from Anwar.

"Actually, he had refused to give his blood specimen for the DNA test to be conducted in Malaysia," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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