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Hanif: I told Dr M of Anwar's tendencies (HL)

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Former Inspector-General of Police Tun Hanif Omar confirmed today he had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1993 that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had homosexual tendencies.

He said his report to Dr Mahathir was based on "convincing evidence" gathered by his officers.

"I registered a point, but the Prime Minister did not register interest."

Hanif, who retired as the country's longest serving IGP in 1993, was appointed the country's No. 1 police officer in June 1974 when he was only 35. He retired 19 years later.

Hanif said he informed Dr Mahathir about his officers' findings on Oct 9, 1993, a few weeks before he went on leave prior to retirement.

He said he was duty bound to inform Dr Mahathir because the police were worried that Anwar's activities would expose him to possible blackmail.

Hanif said when his officers had first informed him that Anwar, who was then Finance Minister, was involved in such activities, he instructed them to carry out in-depth investigations to gather more evidence.

"My officers and I had a few meetings after that, and when I was fully convinced, I went to inform the Prime Minister," Hanif, who is Resorts World Bhd deputy chairman, told reporters at Genting Bhd's headquarters.

He said police had evidence then that Anwar was involved in homosexual relations with two men, one of whom was a foreigner.

He, however, declined to reveal their identities.

He said Anwar's nature, charisma and networking skills made it difficult for people to believe that he was involved in homosexual relations.

"But I have no doubt in my own mind, that as far as the old case is concerned it (the allegation of homosexual relations) was true.

"We could not convict him on that basis, but evidence was strong."

Hanif said that as Dr Mahathir did not show interest, he left it at that, but told senior officers to "keep an eye" on the matter.

He said when he informed Dr Mahathir about the matter, he was preparing to retire from the force.

Hanif said that a few days after he had informed Dr Mahathir, an "intermediary" came to see him, saying that Anwar sought a meeting with him (Hanif) over the "sensitive matter".

"I accepted the invitation and went to see him at his house after the subuh prayers.

"I don't want to disclose details of the meeting to the Press, but it was clear to me that he knew what I knew.

"He didn't ask me why I reported the matter to the Prime Minister. He (Anwar) just asked me whether my officers would use the information to blackmail him.

"I told him that my officers are not in the blackmailing business. I told him to stop his (homosexual) activities."

Asked whether it was normal for police officers during his term as IGP to monitor the activities of Ministers, Hanif said police did not have the need nor the resources to do so.

"We did not have such duties. But at times, in the course of our actions to safeguard national and public safety, we did come across information which gave rise to suspicion of criminal activities. This warranted further investigations."

Hanif said he gave a statement to two police officers from the Federal police headquarters this afternoon.

On accusations made by Anwar that the police were involved in political conspiracy, Hanif said it was impossible for the whole police force to be involved in a conspiracy.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir told a Press conference that Hanif had informed him about Anwar's homosexual tendencies but he chose not to believe it.

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