

16/09/1998

Illegal assembly: Anwar will be charged, says IGP

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor said tonight police will definitely press charges against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for holding public gatherings without police permit.

He said Anwar had contravened the Police Act and police would take action according to the circumstances.

"As a former Cabinet member, he should know the law," Rahim told reporters after witnessing the swimming event of the Commonwealth Games at the National Aquatics Centre in Bukit Jalil.

Rahim also confirmed the arrest of Dr Munawar Anees, former editor of a journal published by Berita Publishing Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of the New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Bhd, under section 73 of the Internal Security Act.

According to Rahim, Munawar is a Pakistani with permanent resident status in Malaysia and the United States. His last known address in Malaysia was Bukit Damansara while his US address was given as Tucson, Arizona. He worked at Berita Publishing for several years until 1995.

Last night in a ceramah at his house in Bukit Damansara, Anwar, when announcing Munawar's arrest, described him as a friend.

He was the editor of a publication called Periodica Islamica which listed out titles of Islam-related publications around the world.

Rahim also confirmed that Ahmad Mohamad, who was Anwar's senior private secretary when the latter was Deputy Prime Minister, had been detained under section 117 of the Criminal Procedure Code to assist police investigations.

Another of Anwar's aides, Mohamed Azmin Ali, who was his former private secretary, had been told to either appear at Bukit Aman Federal Police Headquarters or face arrest.

"He (Azmin) had been called but had so far refused to come forward. We will get a court order tomorrow or the day after to get him to present himself," he said.

He said under the law, a person who refused to give a statement to the police when requested could be served with a court order to present himself.

Asked if Munawar's arrest and Ahmad's detention had anything to do with the book 50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM (50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Be PM), Rahim said it was not only in relation to the book but to the investigation as a whole.

Asked whether Anwar would be arrested in connection with the allegations against him, Abdul Rahim said: "Be patient ...". Responding to another question, Rahim said several more arrests would be made in connection with investigations into the book.

On the six police reports lodged against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said police were investigating.

(END)