

15 OCT 1998

Mohtar-Report

INVESTIGATION PAPERS GO DIRECTLY TO PP, SAYS ATTORNEY-GENERAL

KUANTAN, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Police investigations papers must be submitted directly to the Public Prosecutor or Deputy Public Prosecutor who will then assess whether the prosecution has a case or not, Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah said today.

He said other people had no business having access to the investigation papers.

"It is the responsibility of the police to submit the investigation papers to the Public Prosecutor," he told reporters after opening the office of the Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Kuantan High Court, here.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that the initial report of police investigation into allegation of assault by former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would be submitted to the Attorney-General.

Mohtar said the Prime Minister was correct as it was a legal procedure for every police investigation which had been completed.

He said the decision to bring whatever case to court would be made after the Public Prosecutor was satisfied that there was sufficient evidence for a prima facie case.

Asked about the decision of the Pontian Magistrate's Court in Johor to free a lorry driver of a murder charge, he said it was an example of the need for sufficient evidence to prosecute.

In that case, he said there was insufficient evidence to prosecute as the chemist report relating to the causes of death was not ready.

On Oct 3, the Magistrate's Court discharged without amounting to acquittal Khasiran Jamari, 27, who were accused of murdering four members of his wife's family in Kampung Parit Hussin, Benut, on June 7.

Magistrate Mohammad Haldar Abdul Aziz made the decision after Prosecuting Officer Chief Insp David Chung told the court that he was directed by Deputy Public Prosecutor to free Khasiran of the charge.

-- BERNAMA

ROS ABG