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Kit Siang: Charge Anwar for inciting riots or release him

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The DAP has called for the immediate release of former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and nine others still detained under the Internal Security Act.

In a statement today, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said the detention of Anwar was unacceptable.

"If police have evidence that Anwar was inciting people to go on riots, he (Anwar) should be charged in court for this offence and not under a detention-without-trial law like the ISA," he said.

Those detained under the ISA who have been released include former Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Abim president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman, Abim deputy president Mokhtar Ridzwan, Abim vice-president Abdul Halim Ismail and Abim secretary-general Shaharuddin Badaruddin, Bandar Tun Razak Umno division chief Tamunif Mokhtar and Malaysia National Muslim Students Association secretary-general Ahmad Sabrini Mohd Sidek.

Lim also called for investigations into Anwar's allegations of police brutality to be conducted by completely independent investigators outside the police force.

He said for the sake of the police force's credibility, the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor should agree and request this of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister.

"By taking such a stand, the police will be showing the nation and the world that it has nothing to hide and that it would not condone any brutality by anyone in the police force," he said.

This was because the IGP himself had publicly declared on Sept 24 that Anwar was "safe and sound" under police custody since his arrest on Sept 20.

Lim said investigators should inquire whether Rahim was aware of Anwar's injuries when he made that statement and if not, when he (Rahim) was first informed of the injuries.

Secondly, investigators should inquire when Dr Mahathir was informed of Anwar's injuries, Lim added.

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