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Hanif-Anwar

MY STATEMENT IS NOT PREJUDICIAL TO ANWAR'S TRIAL- HANIF

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Former Inspector-General of Police Tun Hanif Omar said today his remarks about the alleged homosexuality of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar were not prejudicial to Anwar's trial.

He said it was his personal right to do so because the issue related to public interest and was made according to the law.

"The rule here is (a statement should be made if it is) one of public interest, personal right and in accordance to the law of subjudicial," he told reporters after attending the first Malaysia East Asia Satellite (Measat) seminar here.

"I have given full thought to this," said Hanif who is Binariang Berhad chairman and is also a lawyer. Binariang owns both Measats 1 and 2 which are the country's first satellites.

Last Wednesday, Hanif confirmed that he had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1993 that Anwar, who was then Finance Minister had homosexual tendencies.

Hanif had said that his report to the Prime Minister was based on "convincing evidence" gathered by his officers.

Asked about Anwar's allegation that the police had assaulted him up while in their custody under the Internal Security Act (ISA), Hanif said, "Anybody can claim anything. We do not know the facts unless we investigate. Let the investigations go."

He said there were people detained under the ISA but none of them had gone missing or "thrown out from helicopters."

"This is Malaysia...this is not like some other countries where people in detention disappear or were thrown out from helicopters," he said.

He said Anwar's assault case must be determined by the court.

Hanif was the IGP from June 1974 to 1993.

-- BERNAMA

HJ AAM