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Senate-Ibrahim/BM

POLICE DON'T USE FORCE ON DETAINEES, SAYS SENATOR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- A senator said today he doubted Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's claim of assault by police during detention under the Internal Security Act.

Senator Ibrahim Ali said he himself was detained under the ISA in 1974 and again in 1987 but did not see police use physical force.

"But they do apply psychological pressure to get information," he told reporters outside the Dewan Negara.

Anwar told a court yesterday he was punched and slapped by police until his left eye became bruised, his nose bled and his lips were cut.

The former Deputy Prime Minister had earlier claimed trial to charges of corruption and sexual improprieties.

At the Dewan Negara today, Ibrahim welcomed the move by police to set up a committee to investigate Anwar's claim.

However, according to him, a person under detention could self-inflict injuries before police began questioning him.

Ibrahim said he knew of cases where detainees banged their heads against the wall before police came to question them.

Speaking during debate on the Securities Industry (Central Depository) (Amendment) Bill, he said this bill and others to be tabled at the current special sitting would amount to nothing if there was no political stability in the country.

Anwar's criticism of the government, judiciary and police as well as the actions of his supporters in the reform movement initiated by him would result in foreign investors losing their confidence in this country, said Ibrahim.

He said the appointment of ministers including the deputy prime minister was the prerogative of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Even Sultan Hassanah Bolkuiah of Brunei took the decision recently to dismiss his own brother as Finance Minister, while the finance ministers in Indonesia and Thailand too were removed during the current economic slowdown, said Ibrahim.

Dr Mahathir, he said, should be praised for his boldness in removing Anwar from the government even though Anwar was very popular both within and outside the country.

He added that Anwar's dismissal if not handled properly would have caused chaos fueled by his reform movement.

--BERNAMA

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