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Parliament - AG

AG FREE TO DECIDE ON CASES INVOLVING MINISTERS, DEWAN RAKYAT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, April 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has never prevented the Attorney-General from exercising his discretion in making decisions involving Cabinet members, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ibrahim Ali described as "utter untruth" the allegation that the prime minister had prevented the AG from exercising his discretion in making a decision concerning a minister.

In a written reply to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (Independent-Permatang Pauh), Ibrahim said the Attorney-General was free and not influenced by political considerations, either those of the government or other parties.

On the other hand, he said, the AG's decisions were based on available evidence and also taking into account, national and public interests, Ibrahim said.

In his written query, Anwar asked the prime minister to state that the AG was indeed independent in discharging his duties without obstruction and whether the prime minister had intercepted an AG's decision relating to a minister.

Ibrahim said it would be impossible for the AG to perform his duties as required under the Federal Constitution if the AG is subject to pressures and obstruction from various quarters, including the government.

Article 145 of the Federal Constitution states the AG's functions while Section 376 of the Criminal Procedure Code empowers the AG to exercise his discretion whether or not a person shall be prosecuted in court.

Ibrahim said the AG could only exercise this power upon completion of investigation and submission of report by enforcement agencies, like the police and the Anti-Corruption Agency.

-- BERNAMA

AKT RYN