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Anwar denies allegations by Abdul Murad

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today denied the allegations by Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid and demanded an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate the amassing of property by leaders, including past leaders.

Murad, who is the former assistant governor of Bank Negara, yesterday alleged that Anwar had amassed a fortune of more than RM3 billion while in office.

He said Anwar's fortune, mostly in shares and properties, was being held in trust "in accounts of his cronies".

Murad, 46, made the allegations in his statutory declaration which was distributed at a Press conference yesterday.

In a statement, Anwar said the method of forcing admissions in the way of Hitler and Stalin regimes had become more prevalent in the country and the latest involved Murad.

"Such defamatory allegations are used to jeopardise the image of a political opponent of Barisan Nasional," he said.

He added this was also a "method of shifting" the people's focus away from the people's property robbed from the nation by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin and their allies.

"I strongly deny such scurrilous and baseless allegations," he said.

Meanwhile, national DAP chairman Dr Chen Man Hin urged the Government to establish an independent commission to investigate Murad's allegations.

He said Anwar should be given the opportunity to defend himself against the allegations.

However, he said, the Alternative Front would stick to its decision to appoint Anwar as its Prime Minister should the Opposition come to power after the coming general election.

He said the party found it too difficult to believe the claims made by Murad who chose to call a Press conference on the matter.

"Why is he making such a statement now and not immediately after he was charged in court last September?" he asked.

Malaysian Democratic Party vice-president Mohamad Asri Othman also called for an independent commission to investigate the allegations as they were "very serious".

He said it would be more appropriate for the commission to investigate the matter instead of the Anti-Corruption Agency, which he said would be seen as not being independent.

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