

21 JUL 1999

Perwaja-Anwar

ANWAR LODGES POLICE REPORT ON PERWAJA CASE, LINKING MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today lodged a police report on the case involving the Perwaja group which he claimed had suffered losses of RM2,985 million up to December 1995 and linked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's name in the report.

The police report was made in the court lock-up and registered at the Tun H.S.Lee Police Station at about 2pm.

Anwar wants detailed investigations to be carried out because, according to him, the losses from the mega project were massive and the people had the right to ascertain the truth based on the investigations.

In a photostated copy of the report distributed to reporters at the court where his sodomy trial was being heard, Anwar said he was referring to the initial report by auditors Price Waterhouse on the status of the Perwaja group in June 1996, which found Perwaja to be in a critical state and needed substantial capital injection from the government.

"This has to be done because attempts to get detailed information from the Perwaja management then, particularly its managing director Tan Sri Eric Chia had not been fruitful," he said.

In the report, Anwar claimed that Chia had repeatedly stated that his actions had the blessing of Dr Mahathir and were carried out upon his instructions.

"This was proven based on the project approval letter and contract signed by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir himself. With such a mandate, the Board of Directors had been brushed aside, tenders were not called and there were doubtful payments," he said.

Among the matters stated in the nine-point report are:

* Based on the management accounts on Dec 31 1995, Perwaja had run out of working capital and current and long-term liabilities stood at RM6,939 million.

* The Finance Ministry's exposure in Perwaja on March 31 1996 was RM5,517 million.

* Total losses as at Dec 31 1995 were RM2,985 million.

-- BERNAMA

MNY AHH AO