

21 FEB 1999

Commission-Anwar

COMMISSION INVESTIGATING ANWAR'S INJURIES COMMENCES ITS INQUIRY TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- The royal commission investigating injuries allegedly sustained by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody commences its open inquiry at the Jalan Raja court complex, here, tomorrow.

The commission is expected to submit its findings to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as soon as possible.

The setting up of the independent commission was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month following suggestions by various quarters.

The three-member panel comprises former Chief Judge of Malaya Tan Sri Anuar Zainal Abidin, who is its head, former Court of Appeal judge Datuk Mahadev Shankar and orthopaedic surgeon Datuk Dr Yeoh Poh Hong.

Former Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman has been appointed to lead the inquiry while the Home Ministry's deputy secretary-general Datuk Ismail Hamzah has been appointed secretary of the commission.

Anwar, who was removed as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept 2 and arrested two weeks later for allegedly leading an unlawful assembly, appeared at the Sessions Court on Sept 29 with the infamous black eye.

He claimed he had been beaten unconscious while in police custody and a police report had been lodged on Sept 27.

Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah, in his statement on Jan 5, said that injuries sustained by Anwar on certain parts of his body had been proven to be caused by the police while he was in police custody.

Meanwhile, Bar Council president Datuk Dr Cyrus Das, in a statement recently, said that it would apply for observer or watching brief status at the inquiry.

The Bar Council is expected to be represented by its honorary secretary, Mah Weng Kwai.

-- BERNAMA

ROS RM