

07 JAN 1999

Panel

DAP CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT PANEL ON ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- An independent panel should be established immediately to probe charges that police officers had caused injuries to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, DAP national vice-chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw said today.

"We believe that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should not only consider the matter but also to do it immediately," he said in a statement here.

Tan said although the police already had a team to look into the incident, it had not completed or identified the person or persons responsible.

"The police may be professional but on this particular incident, there is a lack of it," he said.

Dr Mahathir said yesterday that the government would consider setting up such an independent panel following Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah's statement on Tuesday that police were fully responsible for the injuries to Anwar and that investigations into the matter were incomplete.

Tan said no matter how angry the police officer or officers were against Anwar, such unprofessional behaviour should not have been perpetrated.

Anwar was arrested on Sept 20 last year and appeared in court on Sept 29 with a bruised eye.

Anwar, the former Deputy Prime Minister, is now on trial on four corruption charges of using his position to interfere with police investigations into his alleged sexual misconduct.

Gerak (Majlis Gerakan Keadilan Rakyat) chairman Datuk Fadzil Mohamed Noor called on Mohtar to release immediately the report on investigations into Anwar's injuries to the public.

-- BERNAMA

MAM THG