

28 JAN 1999

Mohtar-Commission

A-G TO CONSIDER EVIDENCE FROM BOTH PROBE PANELS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah said today he will consider evidence from the both the panels investigating alleged police brutality against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in their custody.

In welcoming the setting up of a three-member Commission of Inquiry to investigate the complaint, Mohtar said:

"As the Public Prosecutor, I will consider all evidence adduced both by this commission and the Police Special Investigation Team to determine whether there is prima facie evidence to warrant the prosecution of any person for any offence under any relevant law."

Mohtar issued a three-paragraph statement today on the investigation into injuries to Anwar whilst in police custody.

"As stated in my previous statement dated 5th January 1999, I had directed the Police Special Investigation Team to complete its investigation by recording statements from the relevant doctors and nine senior police officers whose statements have not yet been taken," he said.

To date, the police have not re-submitted the investigation file as directed, he added.

In his Jan 5 statement, Mohtar had among other things revealed that the police were responsible for some of the injuries sustained by Anwar while he was under police custody.

He had also ordered the police probe team to record statements from several senior police officers including the then Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor.

Abdul Rahim resigned on Jan 8 saying he took responsibility for the injuries inflicted by police on Anwar.

Following Mohtar's revelation, there were several calls for the establishment of an independent commission to investigate the assault.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced yesterday the setting up of the commission headed by former Chief Judge of Malaya Tan Sri Anuar Zainal Abidin.

The other members of the commission are former Court of Appeal judge Datuk Mahadev Shankar and Pantai Medical Centre's consultant orthopaedic surgeon Datuk Dr Yeoh Poh Hong. Former Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman will be the conducting officer assisting the commission.

-- BERNAMA

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