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Karpal making wild allegations, says Vincent Tan

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Prominent businessman Tan Sri Vincent Tan today criticised lawyer and Opposition MP Karpal Singh for making "wild and baseless accusations" against him in Parliament.

Karpal had yesterday said in Parliament that Tan was "used" by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to produce allegations against him (Karpal) through The Sun newspaper which Tan controls.

The DAP MP had further remarked that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's urine sample which allegedly contained arsenic was sent to the Gribbles pathology laboratory in Melbourne under a false name because the laboratory was owned by Tan.

Tan, in a statement today, accused Karpal of trying to involve him in his own political agenda.

"Our Prime Minister does not need me or anyone to speak for him because under his sterling leadership, Malaysia has achieved tremendous growth and development over the past 18 years.

"The Sun newspaper is an independent newspaper. This is evident from the fact that what Karpal said in Parliament was also reported yesterday in The Sun."

With regard to his involvement in the Gribbles Pathology Lab, Tan said that Gribbles Pathology (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd was a member of the Berjaya Group of Companies which he controlled.

"The Gribbles Pathology Lab in Melbourne is owned by an Australian company, Advance Medical Technology Pty Ltd (AMT) in which Berjaya had a 50 per cent stake and which has since been disposed of."

He said Berjaya was merely an investor in AMT and played no role in the management of the company.

"All laboratory operations of AMT are under the control and management of professionals."

Tan said that it was not surprising that the urine samples of the former Deputy Prime Minister was sent under a false name, adding that it was "just another example of Karpal's unscrupulous, unprofessional and dubious practices."

He said since Anwar's claim of arsenic poisoning was refuted by international medical laboratories now, in order to cover loss of face and credibility in the eyes of the Malaysian public, Karpal implied that Gribbles Pathology was unprofessional.

"I cannot and will never direct doctors to provide false medical reports."

Tan also challenged Karpal to come out in the open and repeat the allegations against him outside Parliament.

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