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Anwar-Rahim

NEW IGP URGED TO REFORM POLICE FORCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Former deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today urged the new Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to undertake the necessary reforms in the police force and to redeem its image.

In a statement read to reporters by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, Anwar said Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor's resignation as IGP was appropriate but that it should have been made much earlier.

He also called for an independent and credible team to investigate his allegations that he was beaten.

Abdul Rahim yesterday announced his resignation, effective today, taking full responsibility for injuries suffered by the former deputy Prime Minister while in police custody.

Abdul Rahim said he made the decision to resign following Attorney General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah's statement on Tuesday holding the police force fully responsible for Anwar's injuries while in police custody.

Anwar is now on trial on four corruption charges of abusing his position to interfere with police investigations into his alleged sexual misconduct.

He was arrested on Sept 20, 1998 and appeared in court nine days later with a bruised eye.

"I also urge the Minister of Home Affairs, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, not to abdicate responsibility. He has instructed the police to act firmly and forcibly," Anwar said.

Dr Wan Azizah, who is Pergerakan Keadilan Sosial (Adil) pro-tem president, said Adil wanted the speedy formation of an independent commission of inquiry to fully investigate reports of police brutality.

She said Abdul Rahim's resignation should not be an attempt to cover up excesses and aberrations by the police.

-- BERNAMA
NHD AHH THG