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A-G orders deeper probe (HL)

Ashraf Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah said today police officers had caused some of the injuries suffered by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while he was in their custody, and ordered a deeper investigation.

Mohtar said he had on Dec 30 ordered the Special Investigation Team, headed by ACP Mat Zain Ibrahim, to interview the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor and several senior officers whose statements had not been recorded.

They are Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai, Director of Internal Security and Public Order Datuk Mohd Ghazali @ Fauzi bin Yacub, Federal police Director of Management Datuk Mohd Jamil Johari, Federal Criminal Investigations Department Director Datuk Yaacob Mohd Amin, Special Branch Director Datuk Yusof Abdul Rahman, Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Kamaruddin Ali, Deputy Director of CID Datuk Ramli Yusoff and Police Special Force commander Datuk Meor Chek Hussien Mahayuddin.

"The Royal Malaysian Police is fully responsible for the injuries to the complainant (Anwar) while he was in the legal custody of the police," he said in a statement faxed to the Press.

Mohtar said his opinion was based on the medical reports and the team's investigation file which were submitted to him.

Nevertheless, he said, the investigation carried out so far had not identified the person or persons responsible for the injuries.

Anwar, who is facing five charges of corrupt practices and five of having unnatural sex, lodged a police report on Sept 27 last year claiming he was assaulted by the police. He was arrested on Sept 20 for disrupting public order and later placed under the Internal Security Act.

Anwar appeared in court with a black eye on Sept 29, claiming that he was assaulted by the police.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister, ordered an investigation. Dr Mahathir had also repeatedly said that those responsible for causing the injuries, if any, would be dealt with according to the law.

Mohtar said the investigation file contained, among others, statements recorded under Section 112 of the Criminal Procedure Code from 67 witnesses.

They were Anwar, three doctors and 63 members of the police force.

However, Mohtar said he was unable to make a final decision because the investigation papers submitted to him on Nov 11 were incomplete.

This, he said, was because the forensic report was not comprehensive and consistent on several important aspects with the reports from the panel of doctors and the ophthalmologist.

The report on medical examinations was prepared by Dr Abdul Halim Mansar and Dr Zahari Noor from the Forensic Division of the Department of Pathology, Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

The panel of doctors who carried out the medical examinations were University Hospital's Professor Dr Anuar Zaini Md Zaib and Associate Professor Dr David S.K. Choon as well as Kuala Lumpur Hospital's Datuk Dr Kew Siang Tong and Datuk Dr Muhd Borhan Tan.

The ophthalmologist's report was submitted by Datuk Dr Ahmad Shukri Mohamed.

Mohtar said Kuala Lumpur Hospital's consultant forensic medical examiner Dr Abdul Rahman Yusof, whom he appointed on Dec 1 last year to assist him in studying the forensic aspects of Anwar's allegations and the injuries found on him, submitted his special report on Dec 21.

He said Dr Rahman's report also touched on the inconsistencies.

"Further explanations from the relevant doctors are therefore necessary. In view of the fact that the team has not completed its investigation, it is not appropriate at this juncture to disclose any of the medical reports connected to this case."

Mohtar said from the evidence obtained so far, a prima facie case had not yet been established to enable prosecution under Section 323 of the Penal Code against any person for causing hurt to Anwar or for abetting.

He added that if there was prima facie evidence after further investigation had been completed, he would not hesitate to institute criminal proceedings against any individual proved to have committed or abetted in the offence.

* A-G's STATEMENT IN FULL: P2

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