

07 JAN 1999

Rahim-Resignation

RAHIM RESIGNS, TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANWAR'S INJURIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor today announced his resignation as Inspector-General of Police effective tomorrow.

In a three paragraphed statement issued here this evening, Abdul Rahim said he took full responsibility for injuries suffered by former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody.

He said he made the decision to resign following the Attorney General's press statement on Tuesday which held the Royal Malaysia Police fully responsible for Anwar's injuries while he was in the legal custody of the police.

Abdul Rahim said: "I, as the Inspector-General of the Royal Malaysia Police, assume full responsibility in respect of the matters referred thereto.

"I have therefore taken a decision to terminate my service as the Inspector-General of Police with effect from tomorrow 8th January, 1999."

Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah said on Tuesday he was satisfied that the injuries on certain parts of Anwar's body were caused by police officers.

However, he said, the special investigation team which carried out the investigations had yet to identify the person or persons responsible for such injuries.

Mohtar said he had directed the team to complete its investigation by recording statements from nine senior police officers.

They include Abdul Rahim, his deputy Tan Sri Norian Mai, Datuk Mohd Ghazali Yacub (Director of Internal Security and Public Order), Datuk Yaacob Mohd Amin (Director of Criminal Investigation Department) and Datuk Meor Chek Hussien Mahayuddin (Commander of Police Special Force).

The police investigation file contained among other things, statements recorded under section 112 of the Criminal Procedure Code from 67 witnesses, namely, Anwar, three doctors who had examined Anwar and 63 members of the Police Force involved in the operation to arrest Anwar at his house and his detention at the federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman.

Anwar was arrested at his home on Sept 20 after leading an illegal assembly in the Federal capital and following demonstrations in the city by his supporters.

When he was brought to the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court on Sept 29, Anwar appeared with a black left eye and told the court that he was beaten unconscious on the first night of his arrest.

A Special Investigation Team was then formed headed by (then Melaka CID Chief) SAC II Mat Zain Ibrahim to investigate Anwar's allegation of police assault. Mat Zain is now the Kuala Lumpur CID Chief.

Following Mohtar's statement various groups voiced disappointment over the slow progress of the investigations and called for the setting up of an independent team to investigate Anwar's injuries, while others demanded that the AG and Abdul Rahim resign.

In response, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said the government would consider setting up an independent panel to investigate charges that police officers had caused injuries to Anwar during his detention.

Dr Mahathir said he understood that many more questions still needed to

be asked of very senior officers and as such police investigations were incomplete.

Meanwhile, as of 6.30 pm reporters were camping outside Abdul Rahim's house in Taman Tun Dr Ismail here to monitor further development.

Police officers were also seen entering the house.

Norian when contacted refused to comment on Abdul Rahim's resignation or on him becoming the new IGP.

-- BERNAMA

TM RN