

15 FEB 1999

Anwar-Commission

SECRETARY TO COMMISSION APPOINTED, INQUIRY BEGINS ON MONDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- Deputy Secretary-General (1) of the Home Affairs Ministry Datuk Ismail Hamzah has been appointed secretary to the royal commission to investigate injuries allegedly sustained by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody.

Ismail's appointment, in line with Section 7 of the Commission of Inquiry Act 1950, was consented to by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, a statement issued by the commission here said today.

The commission will commence its open inquiry at 10am at the Jalan Raja court complex here, on Monday (Feb 22).

The setting up of the commission was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month following calls by various quarters that Anwar's injury be fully investigated.

Investigations conducted by the police earlier have been found to be incomplete by Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah.

Anwar, who was removed as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept 2, last year and was arrested two weeks later for allegedly leading an unlawful assembly, appeared in court on Sept 29 with the infamous black left eye.

He alleged that he had been beaten unconscious while in police custody.

The commission of inquiry which will submit its report to the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong is a three-member panel comprising former Chief Justice of the High Court of Malaya Tan Sri Anuar Zainal Abidin as its head, former Court of Appeal judge Datuk Mahadev Shankar and orthopaedic surgeon Datuk Dr Yeoh Poh Hong. Former Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman has been appointed to lead the investigation.

Abu Talib earlier announced that the proceedings of the commission of inquiry would be opened and it had the right to call any witnesses felt to be vital, to testify.

Ismail, as secretary to the commission, will deal with all administrative matters.

-- BERNAMA

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