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Wan Azizah wants commission to look into husband's health

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Parti Keadilan Nasional president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail has called for an independent commission to look into her husband Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's health and safety.

She said the presence of symptoms such as hair loss, weight loss, numbness and headaches suffered by Anwar was worrying as the causes were not yet known.

In a statement distributed to the Press in the High Court hearing the sodomy trial of Anwar, Dr Wan Azizah called for Anwar to be released on bail.

She said she was thankful with the results of the medical tests done on Anwar which showed that until now there were no signs that he was suffering from acute or chronic arsenic poisoning.

Dr Wan Azizah also thanked Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia on their professionalism in carrying out their duties though they were pressured.

However, she said she was still worried as the results had not yet dismissed the possibility that Anwar was exposed to arsenic at intermittent low doses.

Yesterday, the High Court heard that medical tests, conducted locally and abroad, have found no signs of either acute or chronic arsenic poisoning in Anwar.

A report from HUKM after two weeks of tests, said samples of Anwar's urine, hair and nails showed an arsenic level which did not exceed the levels permitted in the testing laboratories.

Meanwhile, lawyer Karpal Singh said he was prepared to face action "any time" on his claim in the High Court that he suspected the Government had poisoned Anwar.

Karpal, who is one of Anwar's lawyers, told reporters at the Federal Court building that he was prepared to take on the Prime Minister saying that a lawyer could say anything in court and only the judge could stop him.

He said this when asked to comment on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the government was contemplating action against him on his "libellous" statements.

Karpal also said that he would apply to cite Dr Mahathir for contempt of court over the matter.

Other opposition leaders have also made similar statements on the arsenic issue.

On Sept 21, Keadilan deputy youth leader Mustaffa Kamil Ayub claimed the alleged arsenic poisoning of Anwar was a high-level conspiracy and the fifth in a chain of attempts to murder Anwar.

On Sept 10, Azizah, in a Press conference at her house, said the poisoning could be attempted murder.

"We have seen the existence of a conspiracy at the highest level to silence his (Anwar's) influence in politics. However, we never expected that they will go this far to commit a criminal act," she had said then.

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