

Findings based on facts, says Anuar

SUN 23 AUG 2001

PETALING JAYA, Wed: Suhakam has denied that its report on the Jalan Kebun incident was "influenced by others".

Commissioner Tan Sri Anuar Zainal Abidin disagrees with the prime minister that the report is "very much influenced by western thinking".

Earlier today, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad accused Suhakam of being influenced by the west and said the report "is not in the interest of the nation".

"I totally disagree. There is no question of us being influenced by anyone, what more a particular type of thinking," said Anuar, who chaired

the three-member inquiry panel, which included Prof Mehrun Siraj and Tan Sri Simon Sipaun.

"This is a straightforward case based on facts provided by all the parties concerned.

"I would expect the government to say thank you to us and work on improving things instead of getting defensive. But then, we did anticipate negative reactions from certain quarters."

Anuar also conceded that such reactions are expected from the government and police since this is the first public inquiry ever conducted in the country's history.

"I'm optimistic things will change for the better in the future," he said.

"I hope the government will see us as trying to improve on bad practices and not as trying to do damage."

Anuar said that the question people should ask is whether the finding of facts are correct and whether Suhakam is justified in making the report.

"After all, we are talking about transparency here," he said.

DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang said the government should accept the report and indicate its intentions about the recommendations.