

Anwar lodges police report on sex video
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PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim lodged a police report in Kuala Lumpur today, denying he is the man in the sex video screened to members of the media yesterday and urged police to investigate the matter.

Speaking to reporters after spending about an hour lodging the report, Anwar said that for such a crime to be committed without the police investigating raises suspicion of involvement of top level government and police personnel.

"Is it possible for a pornographic video to be screened in a public area with prior notice?"

"This serious crime has been ignored and it can't possibly be without the involvement of the prime minister, home minister and top officers of the police force," he said.

He added that Prime Ministry Najib Abdul Razak and Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein's statements yesterday, denying police involvement despite a lack of investigation, also sounds fishy.

"Why are they so apologetic, defending what they don't know?" he asked, also addressing about 100 people who had come to support him.

"I am giving a warning to the home minister not to use this police report to cover up their wrongdoings... (It is) corrupt Umno leaders using the police to cover the stench in their own backyard."

Anwar has denied that he was the man in the 17-minute video which shows a couple having sex in an unnamed hotel room. He called it a high-level conspiracy.

Also present were parliamentarians and PKR leaders Tian Chua, R Sivarasa, Loh Gwo Burne and M Manikavasagam, Perak PAS secretary Nizar Jamaluddin, PKR vice-president N Surendran and PKR Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin.

Anwar was accompanied into the police station by his wife and PKR president Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, the parliamentarians, Surendran, PKR legal bureau chief Latheefa Koya and lawyer Fadiyah Nadwa Fikri.

His supporters, who waited at the entrance, carried two banners labelling the video as Fitnah II++ (slander II++) and chanted "Reformasi" and "Hancur BN".

Nizar, the former Perak MB and a PAS central committee member, said the new allegation has "not a single iota" of bearing to the Islamic party's commitment to Pakatan Rakyat.

"Not at all. We hold to the principle stated in the al-Quran that whatever allegations must be verified... and we see this as slander," he said.

He said this in reference to PAS Ulama Council chief Harun Taib's statement that PAS would have to review its commitment to Pakatan if the video was true.

Nizar also challenged those who claimed that this was an inside job to gain sympathy to prove it.

'Repeat of 1998?'

Meanwhile, in a statement today, Anwar's counsel Sankara Nair said his client was right in assuming police complicity in the matter and that Anwar's move to lodge a police report today might backfire.

"I remember in 1998 that's exactly what Mokhtar Abdullah (then attorney-general) advised Anwar and after (Anwar's then-aide) Azmin (Ali) lodged the report, (the police) used that report as a basis and arrested and charged Anwar with abuse of power and Sodomy I," he said.

"I fear this might just turn out to be a repeat of 1998."

Sankara said it was unlikely the police did not know about the 'press screening', which was attended by journalists and senior editors.

"The reasonable thing for the police to have done was to have stopped the screening and arrested those involved under the Cinematography Act for 'display of an obscene video clip'," he said.

"They should have arrested the organisers and seized the so-called video and the equipment and conducted investigations.

"I believe this would have been exactly the police action - if the so-called clip related was to a minister or any senior government official."

He added that police have the power to lodge their own report upon suspicion that a crime had been committed and that their excuse that no investigation is being carried out for the lack of a report was "ridiculous".

Meanwhile, according to Bernama, a special unit will be set up to probe into the report made by Anwar over the emergence of the video, home minister said.

"The unit is answerable directly to the IGP (inspector-general of police)," Hishammuddin told reporters in Putrajaya.

"I have instructed the IGP to be professional ... to be transparent and to get to the bottom of it," he said.

Hishammuddin said the matter would be taken up by Bukit Aman because it was considered to be a high profile case.