

Car sabotage: 'How did Perkasa know in advance?'

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PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim questioned how Perkasa managed to know that the car in which his family travels in will be 'tampered' with, months before the event.

Anwar said in an interview with Malaysiakini on Thursday that the right-wing NGO must explain why its youth chief lodged a police report on Feb 11 warning that the opposition leader would fake an accident.

"They need to be asked. Now that there is a real accident and a threat on Azizah's life, they have to explain."

When asked whether he was accusing Perkasa of being behind the alleged sabotage, Anwar said:

"No, I'm not implying anything (but), how do you expect me to respond to rumours?"

On Monday, Perkasa Youth chief Armand Azha Abu Hanifah when contacted said that he had lodged the report upon information by PKR insiders that Anwar and "more than 10 PKR Selangor and Federal Territories leaders" were plotting a fake accident to gain sympathy.

Armand Azha said that it was Perkasa's understanding that the purpose of the ruse was to spirit Anwar out of the country to a place where he can seek political asylum.

"We feared that he would mobilise and cause chaos in Malaysia from overseas like (ousted Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra, who was said to have a hand in the bloody demonstrations in Bangkok last year)," he said.

As such, Armand Azha, who is no longer with Perkasa but is the Petaling Jaya Utara Umno Youth information chief, reiterated his call for Anwar's international passport be surrendered by court order to keep him in Malaysia.

'I don't respond to Perkasa'

Anwar has however pointedly refused to reply to Perkasa's allegations.

"I don't respond to Perkasa," he said. "I'm saying that as a matter of principle - I don't respond to Perkasa. I never give them any credence."

According to Anwar, he did NOT want to make a fuss of the matter until the mechanic told him that the damage to the Mercedes S Class could only have been deliberately caused by someone.

Pressed further, the Permatang Pauh MP added: "If the allegations are anything that involves something criminal then the police must investigate, there should not be a cover-up."

He said the fear now is that the authorities are not taking the threats seriously.

"Now there is a semblance of a cover-up, for both cases - the accident and the threat to (daughter and Lembah Pantai MP Nurul) Izzah's daughter.

"This can be amplified by the manner the investigation is conducted and the statement by the minister of defence.

"I don't have any issues with Zahid Hamidi. You want to preserve your position in the party and be prepared to go to that extent, (where) people's lives are being threatened..." he said.

Zahid had claimed that Nurul Izzah's report that she received threats that her three-year-old daughter will be kidnapped was a political ploy, as kidnappers would not have given prior warning.

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