

## **'MACC will act if report lodged over Anwar-Karpal letter'**

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**By Susan Loone**

The Penang Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has yet to receive any report on allegations that opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim spent RM50 million to buy off judges and prosecutors.

MACC director Samarajoo Manikam (right) said that so far, no reports have been lodged on the matter with the commission, which oversees matters on the mainland as well.

"I have yet to receive any report regarding the matter. So far we have not seen any report lodged on the allegations," Samarajoo told Malaysiakini when contacted.

"If reports are lodged, we would definitely act on them and take the necessary action," he said.

"We will act when our investigation discloses evidence that is in violation of any sections in our MACC Act 2009," he added.

He was referring to allegations in Utusan Malaysia on Saturday that thousands of letters accusing Anwar of paying RM50 million in legal fees to lawyer Karpal Singh have flooded the former's parliamentary constituency of Permatang Pauh.

According to the Umno-owned Malay language daily, the eight-page letter, entitled 'Bankleaks Anwar/Karpal' contained alleged bank account numbers belonging to the PKR de facto leader.

Distributed across Permatang Pauh, with former Umno candidate for the seat Mazlan Ismail receiving some 6,000 reports on it, the letter tells of supposed business dealings between Anwar and the DAP national chairperson and Bukit Gelugor MP.

Vehemently denying the report, the two veteran leaders threatened to initiate legal action against Utusan Malaysia and Mazlan himself.

Karpal said he welcomed investigations by the MACC over the report which Utusan Malaysia claimed was written by his former staff member.

Karpal, who has often acted as Anwar's lawyer since he was charged with sodomy

in 1998, has urged attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail and Chief Justice Arifin Zakaria to respond to the accusations which implicated their departments of judicial fixing, although the duo have remained silent on the matter thus far.

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