

## **Zara's case: Transparent probe, no one to be protected – PM**

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**Bernama**

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has given his assurance that the death of Form One student Zara Qairina Mahathir in Sabah will be investigated transparently without protecting anyone.

He said the case should not be taken lightly, especially as various allegations have emerged, including that the victim had fallen, been pushed, or bullied.

“Our child in Sabah has died; some say she fell, some say she was pushed, some say it was due to bullying. We do not take this lightly, and we do not want it to be turned into political fodder.

“Our instructions are clear - no compromise, regardless of whose child it is, whether the child of a minister or anyone else, I don’t care,” he said at the Rancakkan Madani Kelantan Programme at USM Health Campus in Kubang Kerian, today.

The premier said he had contacted Inspector-General of Police Khalid Ismail,

Attorney-General Dusuki Mokhtar and Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail to ensure the investigation is carried out fairly.

“I asked whether there were any mistakes in the investigation into Zara’s case. If there were, take action. This is a death.

“Regardless of whether it is the child of the poor or the rich, in the mountains, on land or at sea, we will pay attention because the investigation must be conducted transparently. I am saddened because she could have been my child or grandchild.

“Due to suspicions, the Attorney-General’s Chambers (AGC) has ordered the exhumation of the body for a post-mortem,” he said.

He said Bukit Aman Criminal Investigation Department director M Kumar has also been instructed to go to Sabah to monitor the investigation to prevent any perception that certain parties are being protected.

“This is the Madani government; we will not protect murderers,” he added.

Zara, 13, was pronounced dead at Queen Elizabeth Hospital I in Kota Kinabalu on July 17.

The student was taken to the hospital after being found unconscious in a drain near the hostel of a religious school in Papar at 4am on July 16.

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