

Special panel to probe fatal shooting
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The Home Ministry is setting up a special panel to carry out a thorough probe into the fatal shooting of a 15-year-old youth, who was believed to be a member of a robbery gang, early on Monday morning at Section 11, Shah Alam, Selangor.

Its minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the special panel would be headed by his deputy Abu Seman Yusop to determine what had actually prompted the shooting.

He said the probe would cover all aspects and would be carried out in a transparent manner without hiding any fact to ensure justice for all.

"I'm not only sad but am also surprised at what had transpired, especially when the incident involved a student who was only 15 years old. Thus, I give my assurance that the probe will be transparent.

"We will investigate all aspects including the need for the police to shoot at that time," he told reporters in Kajang today.

Hishammuddin said, however, it was too early to jump to conclusion and determine who were in the wrong in the incident.

In the incident at about 2am, a 15-year-old youth died after being shot by policemen while his friend fled after they came across a police patrol car in Section 11, Shah Alam.

In another development, the minister said every witness in the inquest into the death of Teoh Beng Hock, a political aide to a Selangor state executive councillor, were assured of their safety throughout the proceedings.

He was commenting on the death threat received by a forensic expert from the United Kingdom, Peter Vanezis, by a group who were not happy with his testimony yesterday.

"When talking about threats, I too had received threats, in fact, the inspector-general of police received a threat two days ago. We investigate every threat received, and in the case of Vanezis, we are also in the midst of investigating," he said.

Hishammuddin also expressed disappointment at the attitude of Thai pathologist Pornthip Rojanasunand, who is an important witness for the family of the late Teoh, who had yet to come forward until today to the extent of hindering the proceedings.

Earlier, the minister attended a gathering with members of the Prisons Department board of visitors at the Officers Mess of the Kajang Prison.

- Bernama