

Syed Hamid : Don't see criminals as heroes, cops as demons
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The people should not regard criminals as heroes and the police who enforce the law as demons, Home Minister Syed Hamid Albar said today.

He said no one was above the law and added that action would be taken against those who broke the law, even if it was the police.

"We will not conceal the facts," he was quoted as saying by Bernama.

Syed Hamid said he was not linking his statement, made in general terms, with the case of car theft suspect Kugan Ananthan who died while in police custody on Jan 20.

"I am not pinpointing anybody," the minister stressed.

Don't politicise the investigation

He explained that police had detained three suspects, including Kugan, following investigations into 19 cases of vehicle theft and armed robbery.

kugan ananthan funeral 230109The minister also asked the people not to politicise the investigation into Kugan's death, saying it would make the police's task more difficult.

"They must talk of the case based on facts and not assumptions," he said.

Kugan, 22, who was detained on Jan 15 at the Taipan police station in Subang Jaya, had died while being questioned.

Selangor police chief Khalid Abu Bakar had said a post-mortem found that Kugan had died due to fluid in his lungs but Kugan's family sought a second post-mortem, insisting that Kugan had died of injuries.

Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail said later that Kugan's death had been classified as murder. A second post-mortem on Kugan has been done since.

The police have completed their investigation into Kugan's death and the results are expected to be known soon.