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Anwar's safety assured, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: The prime minister has assured the safety of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He gave this assurance to Anwar's wife, Parti Keadilan Rakyat president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, during a 20-minute meeting at his tower office in Parliament yesterday.

"The government will not victimise anyone with baseless allegations," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"So to say that we will repeat what was considered a conspiracy (many claimed in 1998, Anwar was a victim of political conspiracy), that is not right."

Dr Wan Azizah had sought the meeting with Abdullah over concerns that her husband would not be treated fairly and his safety not guaranteed.

Abdullah said he assured Dr Wan Azizah, Anwar had nothing to fear.

"We want to ensure that the safety of both, whether it is the accused or the accuser, is protected," he said.

On Anwar's fears that two personalities who had figured in the 1998 investigation and trial of his sodomy case would subvert any fair investigation, Abdullah said that would not be the case.

"Tan Sri Musa Hassan (the Inspector-General of Police) and Attorney-General (Tan Sri Gani Patail) are professionals.

"They are good people and know how to carry out their duties."

On fears that the government will interfere with the investigation, Abdullah said it was never his habit to interfere.

"The investigation is being headed by a senior police officer. They will do their work. They are professionals."

On PKR's claim it had received intelligence of plans to assassinate Anwar, Abdullah said: "If there's any issue related to threat and safety, they should make a police report instead of making allegations."

Earlier, Dr Wan Azizah said she would hold the prime minister to



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his word over his assurance of Anwar's safety.

She said the premier gave his personal guarantee that investigations into a sodomy charge against Anwar would be handled with fairness and professionalism.

"While I still have some (reservations), I graciously accept his assurance and I will hold him to his word," she said.

Dr Wan Azizah was accompanied by her daughter, Nurul Izzah, the party's Lembah Pantai MP to the meeting.

She said Abdullah had expressed

his sympathy for the difficult situation forced on her family due to this latest allegation.

Dr Wan Azizah said she gave Abdullah a copy of a police report filed by Anwar at the Selangor police headquarters yesterday afternoon.

She stressed that they were ready and willing to assist in the investigations.

"We have sent letters stating our willingness to assist both the IGP and the A-G, but until now we have yet to receive any reply," she added.