

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 10/05/2008

A-G should speed up probe against Karpal, says PM

NST - 10/5/2008

■ By V. Vasudevan,
B. Suresh Ram and
Audrey Dermawan
news@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has called on the authorities to expedite investigations on reports lodged against DAP chairman Karpal Singh for allegedly questioning the powers of the Sultan of Perak.

Abdullah said though it was a matter for the attorney-general, he hoped the investigation and decision on whatever action was to be taken would be made soon.

"This case has created a lot

of interest. I hope the attorney-general will decide quickly on the case if it is to be brought to court," he said yesterday when asked about the police reports lodged against Karpal.

When asked, Abdullah said the government would not use the Internal Security Act.

At least nine police reports have been lodged calling for action against Karpal.

Police started receiving the reports on Monday with five coming from Kuala Lumpur, and the others from Ipoh, Port Dickson, Muar and George Town.

The latest report was lodged by representatives of the Malaysian Youth Council

(MYC) at the Sentul district police headquarters yesterday morning.

At almost the same time in George Town, another police report was lodged by the Penang Umno Youth.

MYC secretary-general Tajudin Ahmad said it was unbecoming of Karpal, who is also Bukit Gelugor MP, to release such a statement, which could threaten racial stability.

"His statement not only insults the Sultan, but also the Malay Rulers institution and the Constitution.

"He is rude and should apologise to Sultan Azlan Shah for issuing such a statement."

Tajudin said the council

would gather support among its members and the public to voice their dissatisfaction on the matter.

Penang Umno Youth secretary Ramelan @ Ramlan Ishak said Karpal's remarks were seditious in nature as they had incited the people not to respect the monarchy.

Karpal had held that the Sultan of Perak did not have the power to reinstate the state Religious Department director Datuk Jamry Sury, who had earlier been transferred by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Nizar Jamaluddin.

Karpal had also said in Parliament on Monday that state governments had the right to

move civil servants without consulting heads of state.

He had also said that state governments should not feel intimidated by the Rulers as they were not answerable in matters concerning civil administration.

It was reported yesterday that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had instructed Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor to lodge a police report against Karpal.

The prime minister had said that Karpal's questioning of the Sultan's prerogative as the state's head of religion had angered many, including non-Malays.