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IGP: Reports against ex-PM will not be treated differently

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KULAI: Police will not treat reports against former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad differently from those lodged against anyone else.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said yesterday there was a standard operating procedure (SOP) for police reports, in that every report was investigated.

He said no one was above the law and police would follow the SOP should any report be lodged against Dr Mahathir.

"I am not sure if a police report has been made against the former prime minister (for urging people to bring Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak down).

"But if there is, the standard operating procedure will be followed. There's no reason to 'jump' if police carry out a probe," he said after the opening of the Police Senior Officers Association's annual general meeting here.

He was asked if Dr Mahathir would be investigated for sedition for allegedly asking the people in a gathering on Sunday to topple Najib.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed had said on Tuesday that Dr Mahathir's latest statement could be seditious or treacherous, as the former prime minister wanted to go beyond the Constitution and seek support from the Conference of Rulers for his movement to oust the prime minister.

Khalid said certain quarters would "jump" and kick up a fuss whenever police carried out investigations based on police reports, but this

was the SOP.

He cited the example of the Bar Council criticising police when some of its members were called in for questioning over a report that had been lodged.

Khalid said no one, including the Bar Council, had immunity when a police report has been lodged.

"Does the Bar Council have immunity? I have never heard that the Bar Council has immunity. Police will have to investigate first before ascertaining whether any wrong has been done," he said.

Last Thursday, police called in three lawyers who had proposed a motion at the Bar Council's annual general meeting that Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali resign as attorney-general for questioning.

They tabled the motion purportedly due to Apandi's handling of the Malaysia Development Bhd and RM2.6 billion political donation cases.

On another matter, Khalid said police would deploy additional manpower from other states to help in policing duties for the upcoming Sarawak elections.

He said additional police personnel would be roped in from Sabah due to cost constraints.

He said police were ready to face the state polls.

"Sarawak's case is unique in terms of logistics. We need to rely on air transportation, such as helicopters, as some residents live in longhouses.

"It is important to ensure that the people feel safe or they may choose not to come out and vote," he said.