



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim listening to a sermon during Friday prayers at Masjid Al-Iman Desa Putra in Kajang yesterday. To his left is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar. BERNAMA PIC

CHILD ABUSE ACCUSATIONS

PM: SPEED UP PROBE INTO GISB ISSUE

Anwar wants cops, religious councils to carry out a thorough investigation

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for the police not to delay their investigation into GISB Holdings Sdn Bhd.

Anwar said it was important to conduct a thorough investigation due to serious accusations involving *aqidah* (faith), abuse of power, abuse of religion and child abuse.

"Let the police conduct investigations and take action according to the law, and let the religious councils, as well as the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) and in the Federal Territories, and the Malaysian Islamic Development Department (Jakim), which have the strength in investigation, research education and advisory.

"There are proper channels. Do not delay the investigation. It's best to conduct a thorough investigation in issues involving *aqidah*. Child abuse is a serious claim," he said after attending Friday prayers at Masjid Al-Iman Desa Putra here yesterday.

On the delay in taking action, Anwar said he had instructed the relevant bodies to take action and

expedite their investigations and reports.

Earlier yesterday, Jakim said it was not responsible for law enforcement involving GISB.

Jakim's Religious Service Personnel Association president Colonel Datuk Mohd Ajib Ismail said the department, as a federal religious agency under the Prime Minister's Department, coordinated Islamic affairs, but had no enforcement powers.

Jais, meanwhile, said it was continuously monitoring the activities of GISB members due to their links to the Al-Arqam and Rufaqa' groups.

On Sept 11, police rescued 402 children from 20 homes connected to GISB during raids, leading to 171 arrests.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain said the victims, who were Malaysians, had endured various forms of exploitation and abuse, including sodomy.

The 402 children were believed to be the children of GISB members.

Police also received information that they were taught sodomy and forced to sodomise other children at the homes.

GISB had denied the allegations and threatened legal action against those who defamed

the company.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the police investigation will take time as the case involved many victims, including children.

He said the investigation will involve other parties, such as psychologists, counsellors and medical officers.

"We need a significant amount of time to conduct the investigation into GISB due to the large number of arrests and the involvement of various parties.

"That is why we are asking the public to stay calm and let the authorities carry out their investigations. Once the investigation papers are completed, appropriate action will be taken," he said after attending the Inspirasi Malaysia programme at SMK Tengku Aris Bendahara in Kluang, Johor, yesterday.

Present were Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek and Razarudin.

Saifuddin said the relevant authorities would decide on GISB's business licence, as it involved many agencies and local authorities.

He said police would take action based on four legal provisions, including the Child Act and the Sexual Offences Against Children Act.

Page 1 pic: Policemen guarding children found in one of the care homes linked to GISB Holdings Sdn Bhd raided in Selangor and Negri Sembilan on Wednesday.