

ZARA QAIRINA'S DEATH

ANWAR: THERE WILL BE NO COVER-UP

Home minister, IGP and A-G ordered to investigate incident, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said there will be no protection for those involved in the death of 13-year-old Zara Qairina Mahathir.

He said the home minister, inspector-general of police and attorney-general had been ordered to investigate the incident.

Zara, a Form One student at SMKA Tun Datu Mustapha Limauan in Papar, allegedly fell from the third floor of a building and was found unconscious in a

drain near her school dormitory at 4am on July 16.

She was pronounced dead after receiving treatment at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Kota Kinabalu.

Her mother, Noraidah Lamat, denied linking her daughter's death to any VIP.

She said she had never made any such claim or suggestion, distancing herself from the speculation circulating online.

Anwar said: "Death is not something to be taken lightly. Even if there is a child of a poor farmer from Kundasang, if there is a death, it would be our responsibility to find out the cause.

"I have spoken to the IGP about investigating the case. Statements from 60 people have been taken.

"Last night, after the al-Quran event, I called the attorney-general. He said 'yes, we will get the report on Monday'.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim presenting an award to Jason Lee at the closing of the National Farmers, Breeders and Fishermen event in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. With them are Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor (left) and Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu (right). BERNAMA PIC

"I asked, because people are demanding answers," he said during the closing of the three-day National Farmers, Breeders and Fishermen event at the Sabah International Convention Centre here.

Anwar said Malaysia was a country of laws.

"Whoever they are — a Tan Sri,

a Datuk Seri or a minister — if they are involved in murders and crimes, they will not be given any protection.

"But do not slander others, whether it's a minister's child or deputy prime minister's child. What is happening with this slander without proof?"

Several leaders — including

Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sabah Tun Musa Aman; Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mustapha Sakmud; Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Ali; and Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Jauteh Dikun — have denied their children are students at the school.