

'TRANSPARENT PROBE INTO GIRL'S DEATH'

Anwar orders Bukit Aman CID chief to monitor case and warns public against spreading rumours

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Zara Qairina Mahathir's case should not be taken lightly and called on the public not to politicise or make speculations that could lead to slander.

The prime minister said some had linked the 13-year-old girl's death to prominent figures and assured the public that investigations would be transparent and without compromise.

"We do not take this lightly and our directive is clear: there will be no compromise.

"People are saying all sorts of things, claiming that she is the daughter of the Yang di-Pertua Negeri or a minister — that is all talk.

"I don't care, but do not slander. The Malay proverb says, don't build a palace over someone's grave.

"This is a matter of death. It doesn't matter if it's a poor or rich child, it's not a game.

"Even if it was my own family, I would certainly want to know the cause. I have instructed the Criminal Investigation Department chief in Bukit Aman (Datuk M. Kumar) to personally monitor the case to prevent any issues.

"This is the Madani government. We do not protect anyone guilty of wrongdoing," he said when speaking at the Rancangan Madani Kelantan programme at the main hall of Universiti Sains Malaysia's Health Campus in Kubang Kerian yesterday.

Zara Qairina's remains were exhumed yesterday for a post-mortem.

Her mother had requested an inquest to determine whether there was any criminal element in her death.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor had earlier said the demand for justice for Zara Qairina transcended borders and differences.

This, he added, was evident as Zara Qairina's death had not only touched the hearts of the people of Sabah, but also sparked nation-

wide concern, including from neighbouring countries.

"This clearly shows that justice for Zara Qairina is a shared demand that crosses borders and differences," Hajiji said in a Facebook post.

Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said his ministry, with the help of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, had detected false viral content related to the case.

"Recently, we saw viral content accusing various parties of colluding in the case.

"That content was far from the truth. In fact, there was even an individual who claimed that the late Zara Qairina had been put inside a washing machine, but that person has since apologised.

"I advise the public not to get carried away and share unverified information," he said after the launch of the Federal Territories 2025 Children's Protection Advocacy Programme, themed *Kasih Kanak-Kanak*, at the Kerinci People's Housing Project here on Friday.

Page 1 pic: A huge crowd holding a vigil for Zara Qairina Mahathir at the Harbour Mall square in Sandakan on Friday.