

MINERAL PROSPECTING LICENCES

'SABAH GRAFT CASES HAVE NOT BEEN CLOSED'

Govt not protecting anyone linked to corruption cases, says Anwar

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THE cases of alleged corruption involving several Sabah politicians are still open and have never been closed, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar dismissed claims that the government was protecting anyone linked to the cases.

He said only three people had been charged because their cases were compelling and had strong evidence.

"The others are under investigation. Videos are still appearing in the media and (the cases) have never been closed.

"Based on the information I have received, they are still open."

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said he had watched the videos and found they served as a strong basis for investigations.

He said the matter fell under the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's jurisdiction.

Anwar said the case had been referred to the Attorney-General's Chambers, adding that for criminal cases, there was no time limitations.

He said he could not direct the

filing of charges solely based on videos, as proper investigative procedure must be followed.

"We are not protecting them. What should the prime minister do? It is to issue stern instructions.

"No one is exempt (from investigations), but there must be strong evidence.

"Whether others will be charged later, I do not know. But the key point is that their cases have not been closed or dismissed."

On June 30, two Sabah assemblymen pleaded not guilty to corruption charges related to mineral prospecting licences in the state.

Authorities began their probe after a series of edited videos were published by a news portal in November last year.

SABAH GENERAL ELECTION

Anwar defends use of government transport

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has defended his use of government resources while travelling to Sabah last weekend for election campaigning on nomination day.

Speaking during the ministers' question time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Anwar said the use of official transport was necessary for security reasons, even though he was attending party campaign activities.

"There was no government-related programme in Sabah. I went there (in Sabah) for party campaigns," he said.

"If that is the case, what vehicle am I supposed to use?"

"With the government vehicle... there is some flexibility allowed. The prime minister must

use security personnel and official vehicles for any programme due to security considerations."

Anwar was responding to Ahmad Fadhli Shaari (PN-Pasir Mas) regarding his use of a government vehicle on nomination day for the 17th Sabah General Election.

...what vehicle am I supposed to use?

DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime minister

Anwar added that a "Temu Anwar" session with university students was also cancelled.

"I cancelled it because I did not want the university to be officially involved in organising the

'Temu Anwar' event with young people (for the election campaign).

"I hope that everyone understands that under government regulations, a prime minister or minister is allowed to use (these facilities), and security matters are beyond my discretion."