

**Anwar: Pakatan not behind Deepak, Musa allegations**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

PETALING JAYA, Dec 3 — Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today denied Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) alleged involvement in the two recent allegations of improprieties against Umno leaders by former Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan and businessman Deepak Jaikishan.

The opposition leader suggested that it was merely by coincidence that the issues had cropped up during Umno's 66th general assembly last week, insisting that the timing had nothing to do with him, his party or PR.

"The allegations are baseless. Look at the facts, the issues at hand. Tan Sri Musa... have I met him? No.

"Yes, I met him in court, of course, when he withdrew his civil suit against me. Then, I met him. That was it," Anwar (picture) told a press conference here.

He said Musa has so far never indicated any interest to join PKR, or any interest in joining politics for that matter.

During the height of last week's Umno meet, Musa held a surprise press conference where he accused government leaders of interfering with police investigations, even singling out Umno vice-president and Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein in his allegation.

In the case of Deepak, the carpet dealer had dropped a bombshell on the eve of the Umno assembly when he alleged that Wanita Umno leader Senator Raja Datuk Ropiah Abdullah had cheated him out of millions in a land deal.

The businessman's lawsuit against Raja Ropiah kicked off in court on Thursday, the first day of the Umno assembly.

But Anwar pointed out that he has no influence in setting the date of a court case, saying this clearly showed that he had no hand in Deepak's issue.

"What has that got to do with us? I mean, he wanted to defend himself, to adduce evidence that would support his case.... what has that got to do with me?" he asked.

But Anwar said that both allegations were serious enough to warrant responses from the relevant leaders in government.

He pointed out that in Deepak's case, there were sufficient documents and evidence to prod those involved into offering their explanations.

"They can't just dismiss this. Never mind the timing... you may not choose to respond during the general assembly. These are all issues of public interest," he said.

When asked to respond to Musa's claim during the assembly, Hishammuddin dismissed the matter as merely an attempt to distract attention from issues raised in the meet.

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