

Anwar will reply to RCI queries raised by Dr Mahathir
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Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (pic) will reply to questions raised about his role in the controversial Project IC by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he appears before the Royal Commission of Inquiry next week.

"Datuk Seri will give his statement to the RCI next week," said his office in an SMS to the media today.

Anwar, who was sacked by Dr Mahathir in September 1998 following allegations of abuse of power and sexual misconduct, is scheduled to appear before the RCI on September 19.

A day after appearing before the Royal Commission of Inquiry in Sabah, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad continued to deny that he had any role in the controversial Project IC, under which identity cards were issued to foreigners, allegedly in exchange for votes.

Yesterday, the former prime minister challenged his detractors to question his former deputy and now opposition leader, Anwar, to find out the truth.

"If that is government policy, why didn't he stop it? Is he going to lie to the commission and claim that I ask him to do all these? He should know, he was my deputy," he said.

When asked whether he was referring to Anwar, Dr Mahathir replied in jest: "Maybe."

The RCI, which began in January, is investigating claims that citizenship was given to illegal immigrants in Sabah during Dr Mahathir's administration.

Dr Mahathir told the RCI on Wednesday that he was not aware of "Project IC" and blamed overzealous civil servants for what happened.

He also agreed that the issue of illegal immigrants in Sabah was a very serious problem.

"Yes, it's true. It is a serious problem, which has existed for decades. But resolving the issue does depend on who is the person-in-charge at that moment," said Dr Mahathir.

He told RCI chairman Tan Sri Steve Shim Lip Kiong that during his tenure as prime minister between 1981 and 2003, he had instructed his officers to consider identity card applications and to act according to the law. – September 13, 2013.

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