

Anwar, Karpal slam police for 'half-baked probe' into BN candidate's bribery claim
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Opposition leaders Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Karpal Singh have taken the police to task for failing to classify as sedition their reports against a Barisan Nasional election candidate who last year accused both leaders of bribing prosecutors and judges.

Karpal accused the police of dragging their feet over the case, saying the investigation not only began half a year after the reports were lodged, but was also half-baked.

"What sort of rubbish is this? We will not easily let them off the hook because our integrity as politicians is at stake," said the veteran lawyer.

Mazlan Ismail, the BN candidate who was defeated by Anwar in Permatang Pauh last year, had claimed to have received more than 6,000 anonymous letters alleging that Anwar had paid Karpal more than RM50 million since 2008 as legal fees and bribes to judges and prosecutors.

Karpal is Anwar's lawyer in the latter's sodomy trial involving Anwar's former aide Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

Karpal said both Anwar and he would not settle anything less if Mazlan was not investigated for sedition.

They also want the media which carried Mazlan's allegations to be investigated for publishing false news.

"We will write to the Attorney General to compel the police to reclassify the case. At this juncture, it looks like the police are not serious," the DAP chairman told The Malaysian Insider.

Last month, investigating officer ASP Mohd Zulkefli Mohd Mukhtar from the Seberang Prai district police informed Anwar and Karpal that their reports had been classified as criminal defamation, which carried a jail term of up to two years or fine, or both, upon conviction.

This followed the duo's letter to AG Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail on the status of their reports against Mazlan at the Petaling Jaya police on August 4 last year, after Karpal complained of no response from the Petaling Jaya police.

Karpal had repeatedly urged the police and the public prosecutor to act on the case as it also involved the judiciary and the Attorney General's Chambers.

"I would have expected Gani to give special attention to this case as Mazlan had also implicated the judiciary and his officials," he said.

He said Mazlan should have brought the matter to the police or the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

Saying Mazlan and several media have committed offences under the Penal Code, Sedition Act and the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984, Karpal said he would also file defamation suits against Mazlan, Utusan Malaysia and TV3. – February 3, 2014.

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