

Anas Tagged for Having Illegal Plates

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As if Anas Urbaningrum didn't have enough to worry about, the Democratic Party chairman has been found with illegal license plates on his two cars.

However, police said there would be no punishment against Anas because the cars were not caught on the road with the false-numbered plates.

It was not immediately known who alerted the authorities, but Anas's two cars were seen using the same numbered plate on two separate occasions.

His Toyota Vellfire was seen using the B 1716 SDC plate at a ceremony on March 12. Last week, his Toyota Innova was observed with the same plate number.

"There will not be any action taken against him," Jakarta Po-

lice spokesman Sr. Comr. Rikwanto said. "We will only ask him to replace the plates on the right cars. We did not find the cars with the wrong plates on the road.

"If we had found him using the wrong plates on the road, then the case would be processed."

He said that the Vellfire's original plate was B 69 AUD while the Innova number was B 1584 TOM.

Rikwanto confirmed that two cars used by Anas had the same police registration number.

"The double police registration number was B 1716 SDC and was used by his driver, who said that Anas was often recognized and followed by people," the

spokesman said, adding that the number wasn't registered.

Under Law No. 22 of 2009 on Traffic and Road Transportation, the use of a fake registration plate can incur a penalty of up to two months in jail or a maximum fine of Rp 500,000 (\$55).

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Sr. Comr. Rikwanto
Jakarta Police
spokesman

Rikwanto said police only interrogated his driver and didn't bother to speak with Anas. "Why the driver? Because he is the one who knows the daily routine," he said. "This was just a technical problem."

Anas's driver admitted to having switched the plates recently in order to prevent his employer from being stalked or followed.

Anas could not im-

mediately be reached for comment, but Democratic Party secretary general Saan Mustopha said Anas was not responsible for the use of the fake numbers.

"Of course Anas doesn't know that and doesn't need to know about technical issues related to his cars," Saan said, adding that those details were the responsibility of Anas's staff.

Prominent lawyer Frans H. Winarta, told the Jakarta Globe that as the chairman of the ruling party, Anas should be setting a good example by obeying the country's laws.

"As a political party's chairman, those kinds of things should have been avoided," Frans said, adding that legally, Anas could have been charged.

"I think he should clear these issues," he said. "He should respect and obey the law."