

AZIZAN: I MET THE PM

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Dr M wanted to hear the true story, court told

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KUALA LUMPUR: Azizan Abu Bakar told the Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim corruption trial yesterday that the Prime Minister had asked to see him in order to hear the true story.

He said he was taken to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's residence by Special Branch Director Datuk Syed Yusof Abdul Rahman on the night of Aug 24.

At the meeting, Azizan said he had admitted to the Prime Minister that he was sodomised by Anwar.

He said during cross-examination by Gurbachan Singh that he had not taken any documents with him for the meeting with Dr Mahathir.

Azizan said the Prime Minister had listened to him without taking any notes and had advised him to take care of his safety before he left.

Azizan, 38, was testifying

against Anwar who had claimed trial to four counts of corrupt practice by ordering (former) Special Branch director Datuk Mohd Said Awang and (former) deputy Datuk Amir Junus to get retractions on his (Anwar's) alleged sexual misconduct from Azizan and Ummi Hafilda Ali.

Gurbachan: Were you alone when you saw the Prime Minister?

Azizan: Yes, after I was taken by the Special Branch Director Datuk (Syed) Yusof.

Gurbachan: Was that the first time you met the PM?

Azizan: Yes.

Gurbachan: The meeting was not at your request?

Azizan: Yes. The meeting was not at my request.

Gurbachan: Was it at PM's request?

Azizan: I was told by the SB director that PM wanted to see me.

Gurbachan: Is it true that you met PM at his residence?

Azizan: Yes.

Gurbachan: On Aug 24, 1998?

Azizan: Yes.

Gurbachan: At what time?

Azizan: 9.10pm to 10.10pm.

Gurbachan: The SB director was also present?

Azizan: While I was with the PM, the SB director was not with us. It was only the two of us.

After the meeting, Azizan said he went home on his own. He said he did not meet Dr Mahathir again after Aug 24.

Gurbachan: Did PM give protection to you?

Azizan: He told me that if there was any problem with my safety, to contact the nearest police station.

Gurbachan: Do you agree, even after you met PM, you did not make any report that you were worried about your safety?

Azizan: No, I did not make any report but my house and workplace were always under surveillance.

Gurbachan: After you met PM?

Azizan: Correct.

Gurbachan: That was the only advice PM gave to you?

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'PM advised me to take more care over my safety'

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Azizan: He said he would ask the police to probe deeper into this case and advised me to be more careful.

Gurbachan: To be more careful in making allegations against Datuk Seri Anwar?

At this juncture, Senior DPP Abdul Gani Patail objected saying that Gurbachan Singh should put his question properly.

Gurbachan: I am putting it to him ...

Azizan: It's not true but PM told me to take more care over my safety.

Gurbachan: Was that the only advice he gave?

Azizan: Yes.

Gurbachan: Did you tell him you had made a statutory declaration?

Azizan: No, but I told him ...

When Gurbachan Singh interrupted, Senior DPP Azahar Mohamed objected, saying Azizan should be allowed to answer.

Azizan: I told him (PM) about the sworn statement that I signed.

Gurbachan: That was the only statement you told the PM of? No other?

Azizan: I told him that the contents in my sworn statement were true.

Gurbachan: That was not my question. You told him only of your sworn statement, right?

Azizan: Yes.

Gurbachan: You did not tell the PM about any other documents?

Azizan: No, I did not.

Gurbachan: Did PM write down what you said?

Azizan: No, he did not.

To another question, Azizan said that Asst Comm Mazlan Mohd Din, the prosecution's seventh witness, told him to go to the Special Branch (on Aug 24) and he went about 8.30pm and waited in Comm Datuk Syed Yusof's office waiting room.

He said he was there for half an hour only and that he had met with ACP Mazlan and Comm Syed Yusof at the Special Branch director's office.

Gurbachan: What were you told there?

Azizan: I was told that PM wanted to see me.

Gurbachan: In that half hour, you were told only that?

Azizan: Yes.

Gurbachan: Were you told why PM wanted to see you?

Azizan: I was told that PM wanted to know the real story.

Gurbachan: And you were briefed by the officer?

Abdul Gani: I have to object, counsel is assuming he was briefed.

Gurbachan: That was what I asked. Whether he

was briefed?

Gurbachan: Were you briefed?

Azizan: No.

Azizan said he did not bring any documents when he went to the Special Branch or to the Prime Minister's house.

Abdul Gani objected when Gurbachan Singh asked again if Azizan had any documents with him when he met Dr Mahathir on grounds Azizan had already answered it.

When Gurbachan Singh argued that there was a difference, Justice Paul allowed it saying, "sometimes things fall from heaven, but be more specific in your question."

Gurbachan: Did anyone give any documents to you before the meeting?

Azizan: No.

He added that Dr Mahathir did not have a copy of his sworn statement at the meeting.

Later, when Gurbachan Singh asked whether Umami Hafilda had told him that she had been called by the Prime Minister, Azizan said: "Umami did not tell me whether or not she had been called to meet the PM".

Gurbachan: Did you and Umami go to see the PM at his office after the court proceedings yesterday (Monday)?

Azizan: No. I went straight home.