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Court-Anwar (Career)

ANWAR BECAME DPM WITHIN 10 YEARS, COURT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- The High Court here was today told that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was appointed Deputy Prime Minister 10 or 11 years after he was appointed Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in 1982.

Deputy Secretary-General in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Alias Ali, the fourth prosecution witness in Anwar's corruption trial, testifying under cross-examination, said that this might be a "meteoric rise in climbing up the political ladder".

Anwar, 51, faces four charges of corrupt practice by interfering in police investigations into allegations of his sexual misconduct.

Alias said that he came to know Anwar in 1990 when he became Deputy Secretary-General (Cabinet) in the Prime Minister's Department.

Fernando: Can you confirm that Datuk Seri was a capable and responsible leader?

Turning to the court, he said that this would be evidence of character.

Alias: From my observation, it would be acceptable to say that Datuk Seri was a capable and responsible leader.

Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Abdul Gani Patail then stood up and indicated that he might bring up evidence of bad character under Section 54(i)(b) of the Evidence Act.

Fernando: From your knowledge, Datuk Seri is affable, jovial, caring and also he's a humble person. Can you confirm that?

Alias: It is difficult for me to say because my relationship with Datuk Seri is limited to official matters and related to Cabinet meetings.

Fernando also asked Alias to explain briefly Anwar's duties and powers on his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister.

"Generally, to assist the Prime Minister and carry out duties assigned by the Prime Minister from time to time," he said.

Alias said that after serving as Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Anwar also served as Youth and Sports Minister, Agriculture Minister and Education Minister before becoming Deputy Prime Minister.

Earlier, Alias told the court that Anwar's letter of appointment as Deputy Prime Minister was signed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself before being signed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

-- BERNAMA

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