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LEAD Court-Anwar

ANWAR DIRECTED POLICE TO CEASE INVESTIGATIONS INTO ANONYMOUS LETTER - MUSA

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim directed the police to cease investigations into an anonymous letter containing allegations of his sexual misconduct in front of the Attorney-General, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Director and a senior CID officer, the High Court here was told today.

SAC Musa Hassan, the assistant director of the CID's Prosecution and Legal Division, said that according to Anwar, proceeding with the investigations would be contrary to the decision of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who stated that the matter was libellous.

Musa said that Anwar who wanted the police to cease investigations into the anonymous letter "Talqin Terbuka Untuk Anwar Ibrahim" (Last Rites For Anwar Ibrahim), also did not want any action to be taken against Umami Hafilda Ali and Azizan Abu Bakar.

The former deputy prime minister and former finance minister directed him to cease investigations although it was at an early stage, in front of CID Director Datuk Ismail Che Rus and Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah, at his office at the Prime Minister's Department on Aug 30, last year, he said.

Musa, who is the investigating officer, was testifying on the 25th day of Anwar's trial on four charges of corrupt practice with using his power to interfere in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

Anwar, 51, is charged under Section 2(1) of the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance No 22 of 1970 which carries a maximum jail term of 14 years or a fine of RM20,000 or both on conviction.

Musa, the 13th prosecution witness, was called to testify yesterday.

The case is heard by Justice Datuk S. Augustine Paul.

Musa said that he received a telephone call from Ismail at 9.30am on Aug 30, last year requiring him to accompany Ismail to meet Anwar at the Prime Minister's Department.

Ismail told him that they had been summoned by Anwar, he said.

"Datuk Ismail and I went to Anwar's office at the PM's Department at 5pm. On arrival at the waiting room, I noticed that Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar was also there. We did not discuss anything when we were in the waiting room," he said.

Musa said before that, he and Ismail did not know that the Attorney-General had also been summoned to the PM's Department.

He said that when they went into Anwar's room, Anwar inquired about investigations by the CID into the anonymous letter "Talqin...".

Investigations into the letter commenced with Anwar's aide-de-camp ASP Zull Aznam Haron lodge a police report on Aug 15, last year and investigations were conducted by ASP Zulkifli Mohamed of the CID.

Musa said that he told Anwar that the police would conduct a thorough investigation to gather sufficient evidence to determine whether allegations in the letter were true or not.

"I told him that investigations have not been completed as they were in the early stage," he said.

When asked by Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Azahar Mohamed what Anwar's response was, Musa said Anwar stated that the matter need not be investigated.

At this juncture, Christopher Fernando, one of Anwar's nine lawyers,

objected as the evidence was not relevant to the charges and it was highly prejudicial.

Azahar replied that the evidence was not relevant to the defence but relevant to the prosecution as it would show that Anwar gave instructions in front of the Attorney-General and the CID director.

"Certainly it's relevant to us to prove the charge and one of the ingredients of the charge is that Anwar used his position and this evidence will prove it," he said.

Fernando said whether the evidence favoured the defence or prosecution, the evidence was against the rule of relevancy and should not be admitted.

He said the charges only involved instructions to Datuk Mohamed Said Awang, Special Branch Director then, and Special Branch Deputy Director 11 then, Amir Junus, and the date mentioned in the evidence also was different from the charges.

Justice S. Augustine Paul however overruled the objection as he found it was relevant to adduce the evidence as the charges stated that Anwar gave the instruction for the purpose of ensuring that he would not be prosecuted.

Azahar then proceeded to question Musa and he replied: "The accused did not want it to be investigated as it would be contrary to the decision of the prime minister who had stated that the matter was libellous".

Musa said that at the meeting, Mohtar had expressed his views and advised Anwar that it would be better for the police to proceed with the investigations and if the allegations were proven to be untrue, action could be taken against the person responsible for such allegations.

"Also at the meeting, the accused stated that he did not want any action to be taken against Ummi Hafilda and Azizan Abu Bakar," he said.

Ummi Hafilda Ali is the writer of the letter "Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri" (The Matter Of The Misconduct Of The Deputy Prime Minister), addressed to Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Attached to the letter is a sworn statement by Azizan, the former driver of Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, alleging that he has been sodomised by Anwar.

Musa said that after the meeting, he, Ismail and Mohtar left Anwar's office and once outside, Mohtar asked why he and Ismail had not been informed him of the investigations "because it is a case of great interest involving the deputy prime minister".

Earlier, Musa said that he received a copy of Ummi Hafilda's letter and Azizan's sworn statement from Amir.

He then wished to find out the truth of the allegations against Anwar, he said.

Musa said that after comparing Ummi Hafilda's letter with the anonymous letter, he found that they both contained allegations of sexual misconduct against Anwar.

"I did not know who was responsible for the anonymous letter but on page five of the letter it is stated that it is by some organisations," he said.

He said after that, on Aug 19, last year, at 5pm, he arranged to meet Anwar at his residence to record his statement pertaining to the allegations against him.

Earlier, Musa said that the Special Branch's involvement in the CID investigations went beyond the normal procedure.

Musa said that he briefed Ismail pertaining to the arrests of Ummi Hafilda and Azizan at 8.30am on Aug 18, last year.

He said that Ismail was displeased that the Special Branch had interrogated Azizan and Ummi Hafilda, saying that interrogations should be conducted by the CID.

(Ummi Hafilda and Azizan were arrested at the house of Dr Ristina Majid

in Bangsar on Aug 17, last year).

Musa said he told Ismail that Mohamed Said wanted to interview the two arrested persons to obtain further details on the (anonymous) letter.

He said that an hour after the briefing, he was contacted by Mohamed Said who requested him to go to his office and he told him that the Special Branch had completed interrogations of Azizan and Ummi Hafilda and they would be handed back to the CID.

Musa said that at 8.30pm the same day, Mohamed Said handed over to him Azizan and Ummi Hafilda, who were accompanied by ASP Mazlan Mansor and ASP Zulkifli Mohamed.

Mohamed Said told him that Azizan and Ummi Hafilda had written letters to the prime minister to apologise for writing the letter relating to Anwar's misconduct, he said.

"I was also informed by the Special Branch that they do not wish to detain Ummi and Azizan much longer and asked that they be released.

"I then released Ummi and Azizan on police bond," he said.

At the half-day hearing today, only a few members of Anwar's family were present. His wife was not seen but his daughter, Nurul Nuha was present throughout the proceedings.

Fewer people were at the courthouse today, compared to the last seven days of hearing when Azizan was testifying.

Meanwhile, testifying on the arrests of Ummi Hafilda and Azizan, Muasa said that Dr Ristina had contacted Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai to ascertain that it was a police party which had gathered outside her house.

Musa said that he knew the dentist had contacted Norian who then told her to meet his (Musa's) requests.

He said that Dr Ristina contacted Norian when he was outside the door of the master bedroom on the top floor of her bungalow, situated in Jalan Medang Tanduk in Bangsar, on Aug 17, last year.

He said that Dr Ristina had locked herself in the master bedroom with her two children, their maid, Ummi Hafila and Azizan.

"I communicated with Dr Ristina from outside the door of the bedroom," he said.

Musa said he had earlier identified himself as a police officer.

"Initially, Dr Ristina did not believe that they were from the police, saying that she was suspicious as two or three days earlier she, Ummi Hafila and Azizan were constantly being tailed by people they did not know," he said.

Musa said that earlier, he received a telephone call from ACP Mazlan Mohamed Din from the Special Branch at 8.30pm informing him that he was facing problems entering Dr Ristina's house and requested him to proceed to the house.

Soon after, Azizan and Ummi Hafilda were arrested and handed over to the Special Branch before they were taken to Bukit Aman, he said.

The hearing continues on Monday at 9am.

-- BERNAMA

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