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Court-Anwar

ANWAR TOLD US TO BRING EX-DRIVER TO HIS RESIDENCE - SB OFFICER

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Nov (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim directed senior Special Branch officers to bring his former driver Azizan Abu Bakar to his official residence on Aug 18 last year, the High Court heard today.

Former Special Branch Deputy Director Datuk Amir Junus said Anwar initially wanted to come to the SB office to meet Azizan, but when advised against this, asked for the former driver to be brought to his residence.

Azizan was taken to the residence at 11.45 pm by a SB officer, he said at the trial of Anwar, who faces four charges of corrupt practice by abusing his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

The former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister 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.

Amir said Anwar had earlier directed him and the then SB Director Datuk Mohd Said Awang to obtain letters of denial from Azizan and Ummi Hafilda Ali in connection with allegations made against Anwar by them.

Answering Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Abdul Gani Patail's questions, he said when he was at Mohd Said's office at 6pm that day, SB officer DSP Abdul Aziz Hussin handed them a letter written by Ummi.

Upon finding that the letter did not deny the allegations she had made in the way Anwar wanted, they told Abdul Aziz to get another letter from Ummi.

Amir said that at 9.30 pm, Abdul Aziz and another officer, ACP Mazlan Mohd Din, handed over the drafts of letters by Ummi and Azizan addressed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with copies to Anwar.

He said he and Mohd Said then went to Anwar's residence and while in his study told him that Ummi and Azizan had been released on police bail.

Amir said Anwar, upon reading the drafts, told them that Azizan's letter could be accepted. But in the case of Ummi's letter, Anwar said "not like this".

Asked what happened next, Amir said he and Mohd Said left the study while Azizan was brought into the room.

Abdul Ghani submitted to the court as exhibit Amir's file notes on the meeting with Anwar at the official residence and the directives given by Anwar.

Continuing his testimony, Amir said that at about 10 pm on Aug 27 last year, he and Mohd Said received another directive from Anwar to come to his residence.

This time, he said, Anwar asked for "open letters" from Ummi and Azizan, to be mailed to his office.

Asked to elaborate on the request, Amir said Anwar wanted a statement from Ummi and Azizan that was more "committed, convincing and firm" and with the allegations of sexual misconduct made against him denied and withdrawn.

-- BERNAMA

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