

15 DEC 1998
Court-Anwar (Blood)
ANWAR'S BLOOD TESTED FOR AIDS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's blood sample was taken for HIV test with his consent, the High Court here heard today.

Investigating officer SAC I Musa Hassan said police also wanted to use the blood for a DNA test, which Anwar had not consented, to but it could not be done because according to the forensic expert, additives had been added to the sample.

After the blood was taken, he asked the forensic expert for the sample to do a DNA test but was not given it on the ground that the blood had been mixed with additives and could not be used for a DNA test, he said.

Musa said this under cross-examination by counsel Christopher Fernando at the trial of the former deputy prime minister on four counts of using his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

Musa said the blood sample was taken by the forensic expert at the Bukit Aman police headquarters on Sept 28 this year after his arrest on Sept 20.

It was sent to the Chemistry Department for analysis and the result had been obtained but he had yet to receive the report.

Musa said Anwar's blood sample was only taken once and it was not taken under provisions of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance as suggested by counsel.

Earlier, when asked why he had kept a mattress, which was stained with what was believed to be seminal fluid, for four months before sending it to the Chemistry Department, he said he needed Anwar's blood sample to do so.

Musa said he had written several times to Anwar's counsel, Raja Aziz Addruse after Anwar was charged to obtain Anwar's blood sample for DNA test but Raja Azia, in his reply dated Oct 17 this year, objected to his application.

"Counsel objected to my application for blood samples from the accused and for a thorough examination of the accused's private part and anus and to take pictures," he said.

Musa said that in a letter dated Oct 21, Raja Aziz said that as an accused, Anwar could not be forced to give any sample and if one was take without his permission it would not be valid.

He wrote another letter on Oct 22 after he was still unable to obtain permission to take the samples and Raja Aziz replied a day later.

He said that as late as Oct 23, 1998, Raja Aziz still objected to the examination and samples being taken from Anwar and he continued to writ to the lawyer seeking permission on Oct 28.

His letters to the lawyer were later marked as exhibits while Raja Aziz's letters to him will be tendered tomorrow.

Earlier, Musa told the court that he had not been informed that Anwar had been advised by his lawyers that it was not necessary to take his blood and that it sufficient to take blood samples from Anwar's former private secretary, Mohamed Azmin Ali, his wife, Shamsidar Taharin and their daughter, Afifah.

Azmin's sister, Ummi Hafilda, had written a letter to the prime minister accusing Anwar of having an affair with Shamsidar.

Musa said he was also not informed by Anwar that the latter had referred to the prime minister about the taking of blood sample and had been advised by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that he (Anwar) need not

undergo the DNA test.
-- BERNAMA
NHD RON JK