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Court-Anwar (Accident)

AZIZAN SAYS ACCIDENT WHICH KILLED WIFE, A NORMAL ONE

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- Azizan Abu Bakar, the author of a sworn statement claiming he was sodomised by former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today told the High Court that a road mishap which killed his expectant wife and their unborn child was a normal accident.

He said he did not suspect that the death of his wife and the unborn child was out of a deliberate act or had involved Anwar.

Azizan, the prosecution's 12th witness when cross-examined by counsel Gurbachan Singh, told the court that he did not suspect that his wife was killed and that she had succumbed to injuries suffered in the traffic accident.

Anwar, 51, who is also former finance minister, is charged with four counts of corrupt practice of abusing his position to interfere in police investigations of allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

He 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.

Gurbachan: Do you agree that the book "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM" (50 reasons why Anwar cannot become PM) does mention about the accident?

Justice Datuk S. Augustine Paul interjected and asked Gurbachan whether the question was relevant to the case.

Gurbachan: It is relevant as there is fabrication and conspiracy. I promise that I will not ask unnecessary questions.

Gurbachan: Do you agree that a part of the book "50 Dalil" insinuate that Anwar killed your wife?

Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Azahar Mohamed objected to the question and said: "He is not the writer and he had said that his wife was not killed."

Judge Augustine Paul subsequently allowed Gurbachan to proceed with the question when counsel maintained that it had to do with fabrication.

Gurbachan: Do you agree that although your wife had died in an accident, a part of the book "50 Dalil" insinuate that Anwar was involved in this murder of your wife?

Before Azizan could reply, the judge asked Azizan whether he had read the book and Azizan answered: I have not read or seen the book.

Gurbachan: Did the police question you about the accident (during detention for turning over by the Special Branch).

Azizan: Yes. Police did ask me about the accident that befell me causing the death of my wife.

Gurbachan: Did you suggest to anyone that Anwar was involved in the accident.

Azizan: No. I did not suggest to anyone that Datuk Seri Anwar had to do with the accident. It was a normal road accident.

Gurbachan: Did the police ask whether there is a connection between the accident and the letter "Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri?"

Azizan: Police did not ask me whether the accident has any connection with the letter but I did tell them that the accident report could be obtained from the Rawang police station. Police only asked me how the accident happened.

While displaying a copy of the accident report and the book "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Ibrahim Tidak Boleh Jadi PM", Gurbachan asked Azizan to read

page 81 to page 87 of the book.

Paragraph three of page 81 reads: "Illustrated are how Datuk Seri Anwar and the police collaborated to deceive Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, UMNO and the entire people of Malaysia."

The last paragraph of page 86 reads: "On Jan 31 1998, the second day of Aidil Fitri, the car in which Azizan was travelling with his six-month pregnant wife and their two children +was rammed+ by another unidentified vehicle and subsequently his wife and their unborn child died while Azizan and the two children survived."

Another paragraph of 86 reads: "A fortnight earlier (middle of Ramadan) the door of Ummi's (Hafilda Ali, writer of the letter +Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri+ or the misconduct of the deputy prime minister) home was sprayed with blood and upon investigation the Chemistry Department confirmed that it was dog's blood and a police report was lodged."

On his meeting with lawyer Sukdev during which he signed a statutory declaration, Azizan said he did relate to the lawyer about the traffic accident that had befallen his family.

However, he said, that at that time he was not involved with the writer, the printer or in the sale of the book " 50 Dalil".

Azizan told the court that in July this year, the Criminal Investigation Branch contacted him to record his statement and was shown the book.

He said the police did question him about the accident and the statutory declaration which he signed and also the earlier threats by the Special Branch.

-- BERNAMA

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