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Court-Anwar (Mahathir)

AZIZAN SAYS HE MET PRIME MINISTER REGARDING ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 3 (Bernama) -- Azizan Abu Bakar, who has accused Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim of sodomising him, said today he had met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad regarding this.

The meeting took place on Aug 24 this year, said the former driver of Anwar's wife and now a company executive.

Azizan, 38, said this during cross-examination by counsel Christopher Fernando at Anwar's corruption trail at the High Court.

The former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister faces four charges of using his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

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

He said Ummi Hafilda Ali, a woman to whom he informed that he had been sodomised by Anwar, at first did not tell him that she would pass on this information to Dr Mahathir.

Later, however, Ummi sought his permission for his statutory declaration, containing the accusation against Anwar, to be given to the Prime Minister, he said.

Ummi, the sister of Anwar's private secretary Mohd Azmin Ali, is the writer of a letter accusing Anwar of sexual misconduct which she sent to Dr Mahathir together with Azizan's statutory declaration.

Replying to Fernando, Azizan said although he was not with Ummi when she prepared the statutory declaration it was done with his consent.

He said when he arrived at Ummi's office the statement had been typed out based on the facts he had given her.

Asked by Fernando if he informed Ummi of the dates and time of the alleged incidents, Azizan said he did not as he could not remember exactly when each incident happened.

He said he only provided information on the number of times and the places where the alleged incidents took place.

Fernando: Did you inform whether they took place during the day or night?

Azizan: They always happened during the night.

Fernando: Time?

Azizan: As I said I don't remember the time.

Fernando: More or less what hour?

Azizan: What I remember is that they happened around 7.30 to 8.30 at night.

Hearing this, members of Anwar's family were seen talking among themselves with some of them laughing and saying that was the Maghrib prayer time.

Fernando: Did you register at any hotels?

Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Abdul Gani Patail objected to the question, saying it was not specific enough.

But Justice S. Augustine overruled the objection, saying the question must surely be concerning the alleged incidents.

In his reply, Azizan said he could not remember if he registered at any of the hotels.

When counsel asked him why his statutory declaration was not signed before a magistrate or commissioner of oath, Azizan said: "I don't

understand whether it is vaild or not under the law but I swore in the name of Allah."

He said Ummi too did not ask him to sign it before a magistrate or commisioner of oath.

-- BERNAMA

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