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Court-Anwar (Promises)

AZIZAN SAYS HE WASN'T LURED BY PROMISES

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- Azizan Abu Bakar, who has claimed he was sodomised by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, denied today that he was prepared to trade his self-respect for lucrative promises including a substantial amount of money.

He said Ummi Hafilda Ali, the woman who helped him prepare a sworn statement accusing Anwar of sodomising him, did not promise him anything including expensive cars.

"There were no attractive promises by Ummi Hafilda because I made the statutory declaration on my own free will," said Azizan, a company executive who had previously served as the driver of Anwar's wife.

Azizan, 38, was testifying in the High Court against Anwar who faces four charges of corrupt practice. The former deputy prime minister and finance minister is accused 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.

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 Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad together with Azizan's statement.

Questioned by Anwar's lawyer Christopher Fernando, Azizan said he was not promised a substantial amount of money for making the allegation in his statement.

Fernando: Were you promised the post of company director whereby you don't need to play any role in the company?

Azizan: No, I was not promised these posts.

Fernando: Were you promised good jobs and a luxury car together with a driver?

Azizan: No, I was not made such a promise.

Fernando: Do you own a Mercedes car?

Azizan laughed when he heard this and was ticked off by the judge and Fernando.

He then replied that he did not own such a car.

Fernando: Do you own a business card?

Azizan: Yes

Azizan then produced two similar business cards and handed them to Fernando, saying he had no more cards left.

Fernando applied for the card to be admitted as a court exhibit, and then showed another business card which described Azizan as a company director.

Azizan acknowledged that the card belonged to him and promised to obtain -- from the company's secretary -- business registration forms 49 and 24 to show his post in the company.

At this stage, Fernando applied to the court to defer the question until the forms were produced in court when hearing resumed on Monday.

Earlier, Azizan told the court that the reason he prepared a sworn statement was to inform the prime minister of the actual situation, and he conveyed his suggestion to Ummi.

"I informed Ummi of the (statement) to be given to the prime minister because he is a leader whom I respect," Azizan said and was promptly

reprimanded by Fernando for not answering his question about who it was that suggested that the statement be sent to the prime minister.

Azizan rejected Fernando's suggestion that the idea to send the statement to the prime minister was Ummi's and not his.

-- BERNAMA

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