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Court-Anwar (Power)

POLICE REPORT LODGED WHEN ANWAR NO LONGER IN POWER, SAYS AZIZAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- The High Court here was today told that Azizhan Abu Bakar took over a month to lodge a police report against the statutory declaration he made denying he had been sodomised by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as at that time the former deputy prime minister was no longer in power.

In the statutory declaration, Azizhan denied he had been sodomised by Anwar as alleged by him in the book "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM" (50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become PM).

He said that he had lodged the police report on Sept 16, this year against the statutory declaration made before a commissioner of oath on Aug 10, this year, denying the alleged sodomy.

"I took about 36 days to lodge the police report, after having met the prime minister who stated that he will conduct further investigations," he said.

Azizhan, 38, the former driver of Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Wan Azizah Ismail, was testifying at the trial of Anwar, 51, on four charges of corrupt practice with using his position to interfere in police investigations into 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 the maximum jail term of 14 years and a fine of RM20,000 or both on conviction.

The hearing before Justice Datuk S. Augustine Paul entered its 21st day today.

Azizhan, the 12th prosecution witness, who is now the marketing and administrative executive of a company in Alor Gajah, Melaka, was testifying under cross-examination for the fourth day today.

The court was earlier told that Azizhan made a sworn statement alleging that he was Anwar's sex slave and the alleged sodomy took place several times in 1992.

The sworn statement was sent together with the letter "Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri" (The Matter of the Misconduct of the Deputy Prime Minister) by Ummi Hafilda Ali, dated Aug 5, 1997, addressed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

Ummi Hafilda Ali is the sister of Anwar's former private secretary, Mohamed Azmin Ali.

Cross-examined by defence counsel Gurbachan Singh, one of Anwar's nine lawyers, Azizhan said that he had no other reason for taking 36 days to lodge the police report apart from the fact that Anwar was no longer in power and the prime minister had promised an investigation.

He said that he signed the statutory declaration after he was threatened by Anwar's men like Ma'amin Latip and Abdul Rahim Dhalan, better known as Rahim King (the head of the free fall expedition at the North Pole), and lawyer Sukdev Singh.

Sukdev Singh, he said, threatened him several times over the phone before asking him to come to his office to sign the statutory declaration.

Azizhan said that he had not been advised by anyone to lodge a police report against the statutory declaration he had signed.

Earlier, Azizhan said that nobody including the police and lawyers had advised him to lodge a police report or complaints against DSP Abdul Aziz Hussin and ACP Mazlan Mohamed Din.

The court earlier heard that the two police officers had interrogated

him non-stop and resorting to threat, to obtain a retraction of his allegations against Anwar.

He said that lawyer Karpal Singh whom he had met with Ummi Hafilda before they were arrested, had not advised them to lodge police reports after reading the letter written by Ummi Hafilda and his sworn statement.

-- BERNAMA

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