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LEAD Court-Anwar

WITNESS SAYS HE BELIEVED SEX ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- Outgoing Special Branch Director Datuk Mohamed Said Awang told Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's corruption trial in the High Court here today that he believed the allegations made in two letters of Anwar's involvement in sex scandals to be true.

However, he said, he had to obey Anwar's instructions to get the retractions of the allegations from the writers, Ummi Hafilda Ali and Azizan Abu Bakar.

Mohamed Said was giving evidence during cross-examination by defence counsel Christopher Fernando in the trial of Anwar, who is facing four counts of corrupt practice by using his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations on his sexual misconduct.

The case is being heard before High Court Judge Datuk S. Augustine Paul. Today is the fourth day of the hearing.

Mohamed said believed the allegations to be true because there was a previous history of police probe on Anwar's alleged sexual misconduct.

Fernando, one of Anwar's nine defence counsel, then asked: "If you believe the allegations to be true, why did you direct the allegations to be retracted?"

"Because it was the instruction from a deputy prime minister," said Mohamed Said.

Fernando then asked: "... if somebody higher than him (DPM) instructs you to come here and lie, would you do it?"

Mohamed Said said: "Depends on the situation. I may or I may not."

He said that being the director of the Special Branch, his immediate superior was the Inspector-General of Police but he also had to take instructions from the Home Minister and the Prime Minister.

He said they had never asked him to do anything against the law.

Mohamed Said, however, said: "If the IGP, the Home Minister and PM (were to) ask me to do it, and although I believe I should not do it, but the situation is such, I need to do it ... "

Yesterday, Mohamed Said told the court that Anwar had ordered police to obtain retractions from the two people who wrote letters to the prime minister alleging his sexual misconduct.

Earlier, Mohamed Said told the court that when he first started the investigation into the allegations against Anwar, he did not know it would lead to anything illegal.

He also denied that he had repeatedly told Anwar that the allegations against him were politically motivated.

When the hearing resumed in the afternoon he said he might have mentioned in one of the reports to the prime minister that the allegations of sexual misconduct against Anwar were false and baseless.

Questioned by Fernando, he said he could not "quite remember" telling the prime minister in his report that the allegations against Anwar were politically motivated.

Fernando also asked Mohamed Said whether he mentioned in his report to the prime minister that personalities like federal ministers Tun Daim Zainuddin and Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, former Melaka Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, the prime minister's political secretary Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin and some corporate leaders had conspired to topple Anwar.

Mohamed Said: I don't think I wrote such thing.

Fernando: Did you state in your report to the prime minister that the allegations against Anwar were false and baseless.

Mohamed Said: I may have said that.

He also said he might have mentioned the name of Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin (Dr Mahathir's political secretary) in the report.

When asked whether he had ever given a false report to the Inspector-General of Police or to the Home Minister who is also the Prime Minister, Mohamed Said said he never did that.

He said he could not remember the gist of his report to the Prime Minister but he did submit the two retraction letters from Ummi Hafilda and Azizan and either another letter from Ummi Hafilda or the "Talqin untuk Anwar Ibrahim" (Final Rites for Anwar Ibrahim) letter.

The trial started off dramatically this morning when the court had to call for a short adjournment just after it started to enable Mohamed Said to calm down.

Mohamed Said, who was to continue with his evidence under cross-examination by Fernando, informed the court that he was worried over his evidence yesterday.

"Before I start, I wish to say something to the court. I realise after reading the newspapers this morning that counsel (Fernando) had twisted my evidence to the first question during cross-examination (yesterday)," he said.

Fernando: You said you are worried, why?

Mohamed Said: Because you start to twist the question. I may give the wrong answer.

Fernando: I asked you a simple question.

Mohamed Said: I'm sorry, my lord, I'm not very calm this morning.

Judge: When people give evidence, people must be relaxed. Don't worry. Go and have a cup of coffee. Just tell the truth. Stay calm because we need your assistance to get the truth."

-- BERNAMA

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