

19 AUG 1999

Court-Anwar (Report)

ANWAR ORDERED THE INVESTIGATION AGAINST HIM TO BE STOPPED, COURT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- Police did not pursue investigations into Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's alleged homosexual activities although there was basis for the allegation because the former deputy prime minister directed the investigations to be closed, the High Court here heard today.

Investigating officer SAC I Musa Hassan said a "NFA" (No Further Action) directive was given on the case when he submitted a report of his investigation into the allegation to Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah.

The AG also accepted that directive, he said under cross-examination by Karpal Singh, counsel for Anwar who is being tried with his adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, for sodomy.

Asked the basis for his investigation into the case, Musa said it was based on a police report lodged by Anwar's former aide-de-camp, ASP Zull Aznam Haron, on to a letter "Talqin Untuk Anwar Ibrahim", (Last Rites for Anwar Ibrahim) penned by an anonymous writer whose identity he had failed to ascertain until today.

Musa also dismissed Karpal Singh's suggestion that his investigation was conducted under the supervision of Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor, the former Inspector-General of Police.

"No, I did it alone without any supervision," he said.

Anwar, 52, and Sukma, 38, are alleged to have sodomised Azizan Abu Bakar at Sukma's apartment at Tivoli Villa, Jalan Medang Tanduk, Bangsar, here, at about 7.45 one night between January and March, 1993.

Sukma faces another charge of abetting Anwar to sodomise Azizan, the former driver of Anwar's wife, at the same place and time.

Musa, 47, who is the assistant director of the prosecution/legal unit at the police headquarters in Bukit Aman, here, said his report, which was submitted to the AG, was not given to the prime minister.

Karpal Singh then referred to a newspaper report which quoted Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as saying that the allegation of homosexuality against Anwar was "an attempt to sabotage him (Anwar) and that even the writer has admitted the content was not true".

Musa said he did not know if the prime minister's statement was made based on Zull Aznam's police report.

"How can you not know, you're the IO," said Karpal Singh.

"He wouldn't know unless the PM tells him or it's stated in the news report," Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka said.

Musa said Dr Mahathir's statement might have been based on a Special Branch (SB) report of their own investigation into the matter which was conducted by its then director, Datuk Mohamed Said Awang.

He said the SB investigation was based on a letter written by Ummi Hafilda Ali (a businesswoman and Azizan's confidante) supported by a sworn confession by Azizan.

The police also recorded a statement from Azizan, he said, adding that he believed that what was said in that statement was the truth.

Karpal Singh: Despite the truth in the statement, the Special Branch put up a report to the PM saying that there's no basis to the allegation?

Musa: No.

Arifin: What you mean was that despite the SB doing their own investigation, there was no basis to the allegation.

Musa: Yes

Musa said the SB report which was submitted to Dr Mahathir was not based on Azizan's statement but was based on his (Musa's) investigation which began from a letter written by Ummi to the prime minister.

The hearing continues tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

RA JK