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Anwar-deny

ANWAR DENIES MURAD'S ALLEGATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has denied the allegations made against him by former assistant governor of Bank Negara Malaysia, Datuk Abdul Murad Khalid, in a statutory declaration yesterday.

Murad alleged among other things that Anwar, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, had some 20 "master accounts" worth RM3 billion for use to pursue his (Anwar's) political ambitions.

He also claimed to have personal knowledge of Anwar receiving RM50 million from one account and that debts of Anwar's cronies were settled using profits from deals clinched through the influence of Bank Negara.

In a statement read out to reporters by his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail at the High Court building here today, Anwar described the allegations as "unfounded, scurrilous and baseless."

"I repeat the demand for the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to investigate the amassing of property by the leaders, including past leaders," he said.

"The method of forcing admission in the way of Hitler and Stalin regimes has become prominent in our country and the latest involving Datuk Murad Khalid.

"Such defamatory allegations are used to jeopardise the image of a political opponent of Barisan Nasional leaders.

"This is also a method of shifting the focus away from the people's properties being robbed from the nation by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Daim (Zainuddin) and their allies, part of which are proven in police reports and in court.

"I strongly deny such unfounded, scurrilous and baseless allegations."

Anwar, 52, is undergoing trial in the High Court for sodomy. He is also serving a six-year jail sentence after being found guilty on four counts of corruption.

After Wan Azizah read out the statement in English and Bahasa Malaysia, reporters started to ask her questions but she was not responsive to them.

Before leaving, Wan Azizah remarked to the reporters that Murad's statutory declaration had nothing to do with Anwar's ongoing court case.

Meanwhile, KeAdilan deputy president Dr Chandra Muzaffar, who was also implicated by Murad in his statutory declaration, said he will sue the former Bank Negara assistant governor for defamation.

Murad had accused Muzaffar and Aliran, a non-governmental organisation, of receiving RM5 million from one of Anwar's master accounts.

In a statement, Muzaffar said neither he nor Aliran had received any money from Anwar.

Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM), which was named by Murad as another beneficiary of the secret funds, denied it had received any contribution from such an account and said it was seeking further information before considering taking legal action.

-- BERNAMA

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