

02 AUG 1999

Court-Anwar (Azizan)

ANWAR SODOMISED ME 10 TO 15 TIMES -- AZIZAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Azizan Abu Bakar, the former family driver of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, testified today that Anwar had sodomised him 10 to 15 times.

The first time the former deputy prime minister sodomised him was at a bungalow in Port Dickson in 1992, Azizan told the High Court here.

The other cases took place at hotels in Petaling Jaya and Subang and at the guest room in Anwar's former official residence, he said when questioned by Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah who is leading the prosecution in the trial of Anwar and his adopted brother Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja.

Anwar, 51, and Sukma, 38, are accused of sodomising Azizan at Sukma's apartment at Tivoli Villa in Bangsar at 7.45pm between January and March 1993.

Sukma faces a second charge of abetting Anwar to commit the offence at the same place and time.

Anwar's leading counsel Christopher Fernando objected to Azizan's testimony saying that the alleged sodomy in Port Dickson had never been brought up before.

Admitting that it was new evidence, Mohtar said he would not question further about it.

Azizan said he had told businesswoman Ummi Hafilda Ali about being sodomised by Anwar but did not mention all the places where the incidents allegedly took place.

Ummi Hafilda wrote a letter in August 1997 accusing Anwar of sexual misconduct. It was sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad along with a sworn statement by Azizan that Anwar had sodomised him.

Asked why he let Anwar sodomise him, Azizan said: "I was scared of him as he was in power then."

He said he was under pressure as did not expect that Anwar who always championed the cause of Islam and was highly regarded by the people could do such a thing towards him.

"He also took advantage of my timid and obedient character," said Azizan.

He said he continued to work as the driver of Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, after being first sodomised by Anwar as he was confused.

He respected Azizah a lot and was close with her children, and that was why he agreed to return to the same job after having resigned to work for Sime Darby Bhd, said Azizan.

However, he stayed on for two weeks as he feared that Anwar would sodomise him again.

Asked by Fernando why he had not mentioned about the alleged sodomy in Tivoli Villa and Port Dickson in his confession, Azizan said it was because he felt sad as that was the first time he was sodomised and that too by two persons.

He said he did mention the Port Dickson incident to the police team that took questioned him.

Asked why he did not feel the same way when he mentioned the other

places where was allegedly sodomised by Anwar, Azizan said he did feel sad and and told Ummi Hafilda of only some of the places.

When the lawyer suggested to Azizan that he had only presented a partially true version to Ummi Hafilda, Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka intervened saying that did not mean the matter was not true.

Azizan then said: "I made a sworn statement in the name of God about being sodomised by Datuk Seri Anwar because I felt guilty for allowing myself to be sodomised by him."

The former driver said that in addition to submitting the sworn statement to Dr Mahathir, he had given a copy of it to lawyer Karpal Singh and one to the police officer who recorded his statement.

Karpal, he said, obtained his copy via fax when he went to see the lawyer at his office with Ummi Hafilda and Dr Ristina Majid.

He said they went to see Karpal for legal advice and that during the meeting he had mentioned in detail about how Anwar allegedly sodomised him for the first time in a bungalaow.

Azizan said although he had sent his sworn statement to the prime minister, he went to see Karpal because he suspected that police were trailing him and wanted the lawyer to represent him should he be detained or charged.

He said Karpal told him to let Dr Mahathir deal with the matter since the sworn statement and Ummi Hafilda's letter had been sent to the prime minister.

Karpal, who is the MP for Jeltong, also promised to bring up the matter in the next Parliament session, said Azizan.

He said Karpal's sons, Jagdeep Singh Deo and Gobind Singh Deo, who are currently representing Sukma, were not present at the meeting in Karpal's office.

Questioned by Fernando, Azizan admitted that when he stopped working for Sime Darby for the second time after serving as Wan Azizah's driver for two weeks, he joined a company in Melaka as its director.

He then moved over to a housing developer's firm in Alor Gajah where he was appointed as its marketing and sales executive.

He agreed with counsel that he continued to hold that post during Anwar's corruption trial in April, but has since been promoted to the post of marketing and administration in the same company.

He said he did not hold any shares in the company but was given a company car besides a salary.

At this point, Arifin asked Fernando about the relevance of the questions to the case, and the lawyer replied that he would inform the judge in chambers when hearing continued tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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