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Anwar sodomised me 10 to 15 times: Azizan

AZIZAN Abu Bakar, the former family driver of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, testified yesterday 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 in Kuala Lumpur.

The other occasions 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.

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.

Asked by Anwar's leading counsel Christopher 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 which questioned him.

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."

Azizan 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.

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 Member of Parliament for Jelutong, also promised to bring up the matter in the next Parliament session, said Azizan.

Hearing continues today.

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