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Court-Anwar (Scan)

ANWAR'S BRAIN SCAN SHOWS HE IS ALL RIGHT, COURT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- A brain scan underwent by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital yesterday showed that he is all right, the High Court here was told today.

The former deputy prime minister who frequently complained of headaches during his sodomy trial, told Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka that the brain scan showed that was all right.

He said this when Justice Arifin told him that he was concerned over his state of health as Anwar again complained of headaches and could not continue with his evidence in the afternoon session.

Anwar, who was testifying in his defence, could only proceed for 20 minutes in the afternoon session before complaining of discomfort due to headaches.

The trial was then adjourned to tomorrow morning.

Anwar, 52, is jointly tried with his adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, 38, on separate charges of sodomising his wife's former driver, Azizan Abu Bakar, 39, at Sukma's apartment in Tivoli Villa, Bangsar, here, one night at 7.45, between January and March, 1993.

Sukma, a businessman, faces another charge of abetting Anwar in sodomising Azizan, at the same time and place.

Anwar was sacked as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept 2, last year on allegations of sexual misconduct.

During previous hearings, Anwar complained many times that he could not continue with his evidence and at one stage, the court was told by doctors from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Hospital (HUKM) where he underwent tests following the allegation of arsenic poisoning that he was suffering from tension headaches.

During the afternoon session, when Anwar said that he was feeling uncomfortable, Justice Arifin said he could see his problem from his face which was flushed and his watery eyes.

Justice Arifin advised him to take the medication prescribed by the doctor to overcome the problem for his own good.

"I can imagine...the headache must be terrible," the judge said.

"The doctor wants me to rest...to have adequate sleep," said Anwar, reiterating that the brain scan he underwent showed he was all right.

At this stage, Justice Arifin said that to prevent disruption of the hearing due to Anwar's headaches which usually occur in the afternoon, he suggested that the proceedings be conducted from morning up to 2.30pm.

He said that the new arrangement would start tomorrow.

Justice Arifin told Anwar that the doctor treating him had contacted him and asked that Anwar be given time to rest when he complains of headaches.

Earlier in his testimony, Anwar said it was not true that he had directed SAC I Musa Hassan, the investigating officer of the case, to cease investigations into the poison pen letter against him on Aug 30, 1997.

Anwar said that from his office's diary and notes, only Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah and then CID Director Datuk Ismail Che Rus met him in his office on that day.

"It is not true because SAC Musa Hassan said that he received instructions from me to close the case on Aug 30, 1997 and he obeyed. But the reality is otherwise because he came to my house to question me on Sept 2, 1997," he said.

Anwar said at that meeting, when he was alone with Mohtar, the attorney-general had advised him to study the possibility of taking action against Azizan and Ummi Hafilda Ali, the writer of the letter "Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri" (The Matter on the Misconduct of the Deputy Prime Minister) dated Aug 5, 1997, sent to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad together with Azizan's statutory declaration alleging he was sodomised by Anwar.

Anwar said that Mohtar however requested that the matter be shelved until he receives the investigation report from the police and that an officer had been entrusted with the task.

-- BERNAMA

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