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Court-Anwar (Scared)

AZIZAN: WE WERE SCARED OF BEING BEATEN BY POLICE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Azizan Abu Bakar and Ummi Hafilda Ali, who have both accused Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim of sexual misconduct, went to put up at Ummi's friend house a few days before they were detained as they were scared of being beaten by police who was then allegedly controlled by Anwar, the High Court heard today.

Azizan said he and Ummi were constantly trailed by several men suspected of being policemen after the prime minister came to know of a letter written by Ummi accusing Anwar of sexual misconduct.

The letter dated Aug 5, 1997 also contained a sworn statement by Azizan accusing Anwar of sodomising him.

Azizan said he was also frightened after being frequently contacted by ASP Zull Aznam Haron, the aide-de-camp of Anwar, then the deputy prime minister and finance minister.

Azizan, the former driver of Anwar's wife, was testifying against Anwar who is charged with sodomising him.

Anwar, 51 and his adopted brother Sukma Darmawan Samitaat Madja, 38, are charged with sodomising Azizan at Sukma's apartment at Tivoli Villa in Bangsar here at 7.45pm between January and March 1993.

Sukma is also accused of abetting Anwar to commit the offence at the same time and place.

Cross-examined by counsel Christopher Fernando, Azizan said he and Ummi did not go to the police station to seek help as they thought the police were being used by Anwar.

He said the two of them were scared although they knew Ziela Jalil, the wife of Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob who was then the deputy home minister having control over police.

Azizan said he knew Ummi's friend Dr Ristina Majid, in whose house they went to put up.

Ummi had introduced the dentist to him at Ummi's family house but they had not discussed about Anwar allegedly sodomising him, he said.

Azizan said that while staying in Dr Ristina's house, they were visited by Ummi's siblings including Azwan Ali and also by Dr Ristina's friends who were not police officers or politicians.

He disagreed with Fernando that they were taken to Dr Ristina's house by oleh Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin, the political secretary of Prime Minister Menteri Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Azizan said they stayed at the dentist's house temporarily and they did not think that she could provide better security than the police.

Asked again by Fernando why they chose Dr Ristina over the police, Azizan said: "That was my choice because at that time we could put up only at Dr Ristina's house after receiving an invitation from the dentist herself.

Azizan also denied that he went to stay at Dr Ristina's house because he was involved in a plot to topple Anwar and because the dentist convinced him that he would be safe and protected.

Azizan admitted however that Dr Ristina had invited Ummi and him to stay in her house after they told her that they were constantly followed by people whom they did not know.

He also testified that he did not know that the then Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Shamsuddin was the brother of Dr Ristina.

Azizan also admitted that Dr Ristina did not allow police to enter her

house to detain him and Ummi, and that she also prevented the two of them from surrendering.

However, he did not agree that the fact that police took four-and-a-half hours to get them out of Dr Ristina's house showed that the dentist was strong and powerful.

Azizan said Dr Ristina had also introduced him to two men known as Mohamed Taib Salamon and B.K.Tan but denied that they two were former policemen impersonating special branch officers.

Earlier, Azizan admitted he was taken to meet former Melaka chief minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik at his office by Ummi and Ziela.

He said the 20-minute meeting was held because Rahim wanted to know if Anwar had really sodomised Azizan.

Rahim, he said, did not know suggest that he should do anything about the sodomy allegation.

Replying to a question, Azizan said he could not say for sure if Ummi was a close friend of Rahim and Ziela based on his observations.

But he said Ummi had once told him that she knew many well known people although she had not taken him to see any such person apart from Rahim.

Azizan, who denied that he was currently working in a company owned by Rahim, said he did not know that the office address of the publisher of the "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM" was the same as the address once used by Rahim.

He said he also did not know if Rahim, Ummi and Ziela planned to do anything about the sodomy allegation.

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