

03/08/1999

Azizan: Anwar sodomised me between 10 and 15 times

Ruslaini Abbas; Satwant Singh

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Former driver Azizan Abu Bakar said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim sodomised him between 10 and 15 times since 1992, the first time in a bungalow in Port Dickson, Negri Sembilan.

Azizan said the other occasions took place at Petaling Jaya Hilton, Holiday Villa in Subang Jaya, Hyatt Saujana in Subang, and in the guest room at Anwar's then official residence.

He had allowed Anwar to sodomise him because he was scared of the sacked Deputy Prime Minister who was "powerful" then.

Azizan, who formerly worked as a driver for Anwar's wife Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, was being questioned by Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah.

Anwar's counsel Christopher Fernando had objected to Azizan's evidence on the alleged incident in Port Dickson contending that this was the first time the issue had come out.

Mohtar said he had wanted to ask about it earlier but was objected to by counsel. However, the A-G said he would not go into detail.

Judge Datuk Arifin Jaka told Mohtar to proceed.

Questioned by the A-G, Azizan said he was under pressure then and did not believe that Anwar would do such things.

"I did not believe that Datuk Seri Anwar, someone who championed the cause of Islam and respected by society, could have done that to me," he said, adding that Anwar had taken advantage of his weaknesses.

A-G: Why did you continue to work for Datin Seri Azizah after the first incident?

Azizan: I was confused and in a state of impasse, but I also respected Datin Seri Wan Azizah and her children were close to me.

Asked why he worked for two weeks for Dr Wan Azizah in 1994 after quitting at the end of 1992, Azizan said Dr Wan Azizah had invited him to work for her.

However, he could not continue after two weeks because he was afraid of a repeat of the "old incident".

Azizan said Anwar's former aide-de-camp ASP Zull Aznam Harun met him in June last year and invited him for dinner.

He went to see Zull near Anwar's house and Zull told him that Anwar wished to see him (Azizan).

Azizan said Zull took him to Anwar's study and left him there with Anwar who had told him to deny his sworn statement (marked P5), alleging that Anwar had sodomised him.

A-G: What was your reaction?

Azizan: I did not say anything.

A-G: Why not?

Azizan: He had asked me to lie when my statement was true.

Azizan said Anwar also told him that he was accused of being involved in the death of his (Azizan's) wife. The accusation was found in the book 50 Dalil Kenapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM.

"He also said that he was accused of splashing animal blood on my house," Azizan said, adding that he denied the accusation against Anwar, contending that his wife had died in a "normal" road accident.

Earlier, Azizan said he made the statement in August 1997 as he felt guilty for allowing himself to be sodomised.

He said other than Ummi Hafilda Ali, a copy of the statement was also

given to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, lawyer Karpal Singh and a police officer.

Azizan said he met Karpal in August 1997 at the lawyer's office, accompanied by Ummi and Dr Ristina Majid, and related the sodomy to the lawyer.

Asked why he went to see Karpal although a letter was sent to the Prime Minister, Azizan said he suspected that the police were following him.

He had also wanted Karpal to represent him in case he was arrested or sued over the statement.

Karpal told him to let the Prime Minister settle the matter, Azizan said, adding that the lawyer also said that he would take the matter to Parliament.

Cross-examined by Fernando, Azizan agreed that he signed the statement in August 1997, and had only told Ummi about the places where the incident occurred.

He disagreed the other phrases in the statement were created by Ummi.

Azizan said he was not proficient in the Malay language so he gave the facts to Ummi who wrote the statement.

He denied that he had lied in Anwar's previous trial.

Azizan agreed that he knew the facts before signing P5, but when asked why he did not mention the incidents in Tivoli Villas and Port Dickson, Azizan said he only gave partial information to Ummi.

He disagreed that Ummi was not his confidant, although they were not close.

Azizan said he did not know how long Ummi took to prepare the statement but it was ready when he reached her office although he had not expected it to be so fast.

Azizan said he did not ask Ummi why the hurry in preparing the statement.

To a question, Azizan said he did not mention the Port Dickson incident to Ummi as he was sad about it.

Azizan said he was made a director of property development company Azariq while working as a driver for Shamsidar Taharin, the wife of Anwar's former private secretary Azmin Ali.

His function was to turn Azariq around and apart from him there were other directors called Junaidah, Omar Verankutty and Ahmad Bastari.

Asked by Fernando, Azizan said Junaidah and Ahmad were in their 20s while Omar was about 45 years old.

Azizan said he had no share in the company whose "directors on paper" were Lai Fong Wah, Wong Chee Kong, Fong Hong Chai and two others whose names he could not remember. Hearing continues.