

19 JUN 1999

Court-Anwar (Haniff)

FURTHER PROBE INTO ANWAR'S HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITIES ORDERED, COURT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Former Inspector-General of Police Tun Haniff Omar told the sodomy trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the High Court here today that he instructed the then director of the Special Branch to conduct an indepth investigation into Anwar's alleged homosexual activities.

He said that the order was made although Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not believe his report about Anwar.

Haniff said he issued the order as he was highly convinced of the strong evidence obtained by the Special Branch on Anwar's involvement in such activities.

Anwar, the former deputy prime minister and former finance minister, is jointly tried with his adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, a boutique owner, each charged with sodomising Azizan Abu Bakar at unit no 10-7-2, Tivoli Villa, Jalan Medang Tanduk, Bangsar, here, at about 7.45pm between January and March 1993.

Sukma faces an additional charge of abetting Anwar in sodomising Azizan, the former driver of Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, at the same place and time.

Haniff, who was the IGP from 1974 to 1993, said that apart from ordering the then Special Branch director, Datuk Zulkifli Abdul Rahman, to continue with the probe, he also told him to inform his (Haniff's) impending successor and Zulkifli's impending successor about the matter.

Zulkifli, he said, was also about to retire at that time.

Questioned by defence counsel Karpal Singh, he said that he did not make a police report about the information he obtained because Special Branch investigations did not require police reports.

"What is the law for that," asked Karpal Singh.

"The law does not apply, even the CPC (Criminal Procedure Code) does not apply," said Haniff, who has a law degree.

"You said provision of the CPC does not apply. Then...what applies, come on you're a professional, you're a lawyer," Karpal Singh said.

Before Haniff could answer, Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka said: "Please Karpal, when you ask questions, don't say anything else."

This led to heated exchanges between him and Karpal Singh, who charged the judge of feeding answers into the witness' mouth. The exchange led to Justice Arifin making a remark that both of them should keep quiet and listen to what Haniff had to say.

Haniff said despite having knowledge of Anwar's alleged activities, he did not verify them personally, whether during his retirement leave of three months in 1993 or even when he made a press statement about it in September last year.

Haniff also admitted that he did not divulge the information to anyone apart from the prime minister, until 1997 when the matter resurfaced.

Earlier, Haniff, who is Genting Group Bhd's deputy chairman, denied that he had called for a press conference at his office in Wisma Genting here to make a statement in support of Dr Mahathir's revelation of Anwar's alleged homosexual activities.

He said he had not seen or read Dr Mahathir's statement about the matter which was published in the newspapers on Sept 23 as he had not been reading the papers.

However, when the press came to his office, he was told by one of his

officers that they wanted his statement as Dr Mahathir had mentioned his name in his news conference on the matter.

Questioned further by Karpal Singh, Haniff said as a director of five other companies, he was earning a salary of about RM100,000 a month.

"What's the relevance (of this question)?" asked Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka.

"I'm going into the credibility of this witness. Please give me some latitude here, My Lord," he replied.

Earlier, during cross-examination by Christopher Fernando, Anwar's leading counsel, Haniff corrected himself and said that Zulkifli had actually told him that Anwar had relationships with three persons including two with whom he was said to have had "sexual liaisons".

One of them was Sukma while the other was by the name of Mior, he said.

Haniff also confirmed his evidence yesterday that he had told Anwar to stop what he was doing and that Anwar had asked whether he would be subjected to blackmailing by police officers.

"I'm putting it to you that you're lying," said Fernando.

"You're telling me? Have you met anyone who had said I've lied. I've never lied since I was eight years old and I can say the circumstances why that was so," said Haniff.

The witness also denied that he was the one who had wanted to see Anwar at his (Anwar's) official residence to warn him about his political enemies as Anwar, in 1993, was going for the post of Umno deputy president.

He also denied having told Dr Mahathir that the Special Branch and senior police officers in the police force were not too happy with Anwar because of his views on the Internal Security Act (ISA) and of his background as a former leader of the Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (Abim).

Hearing continues on Monday.

-- BERNAMA

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