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Hanif advised not to accept post

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim told the High Court today that he had advised former Inspector-General of Police Tun Hanif Omar not to accept a high post in a gaming company.

Anwar said he told Hanif it would be inappropriate for a Muslim to become one of the directors in Genting Bhd although the salary offered was RM50,000 a month.

He said he was informed of Hanif being offered the post in his capacity as the Finance Minister (then) by his Ministry's administration division as the matter involved gaming.

Furthermore, Anwar said Genting had just applied to the Finance Ministry to reduce its tax rates as well as asking for exemptions.

Anwar, who was making his defence, said he also advised Hanif to accept directorship of other companies.

"At that time (Tan Sri) Ananda Krishnan had already offered the post of a director in Binariang to Hanif with a salary of RM20,000," he said.

However, Anwar said Hanif was not pleased with his advice and Hanif stated that the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given his approval.

Fernando: Why was he angry with you or not satisfied (with the advice)?

Anwar: Because, I explained that he (Hanif) could be used to influence the Ministry to reduce tax and I could not accept this.

Anwar also denied he had asked a businessman Datuk Andrew Leong to arrange a meeting with Hanif at his (Anwar's) house.

(END)