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Court-Anwar (Rahim)

RAHIM WAS VERY ANGRY WHEN HE HAD TO RESIGN, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik was very angry with Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim when he had to resign as Melaka Chief Minister in 1995, the High Court here was told today.

Anwar, testifying in his defence at his sodomy trial, said that Abdul Rahim felt he was responsible in persuading the prime minister to take action against him to the extent that he had to resign.

"My Lord, he gave the impression as if I had exerted pressure so that action was taken against him, more so as I was the one who conveyed to him the prime minister's decision and his resignation letter was handwritten before me," he said.

Anwar said Abdul Rahim also stated that "many ministers are clearly corrupt and involved in sexual misconduct, why hasn't the prime minister taken action".

He was questioned by his leading counsel, Christopher Fernando, on the sixth day of his defence at the trial which entered its 68th day today.

Anwar, 52, is jointly tried with his adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, 38, on separate charges of sodomising 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, Anwar's wife's former driver, at the same time and place.

Anwar told the court that he had met Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad regarding the corruption charges against Abdul Rahim before the chief minister's resignation.

"I informed him of the charge proposed by the Attorney-General's Chambers in the corruption case and that the attorney-general had wanted me to bring it up again when the prime minister refused to take any action against Abdul Rahim at that time," he said.

Anwar said Dr Mahathir had informed him of Abdul Rahim's latest case, involving an underage girl, and had informed him to tell Abdul Rahim to resign.

Anwar said that the case pertained to the allegation that Abdul Rahim had sex with an underage girl or committing statutory rape.

"A few weeks later, Abdul Rahim came to my office and I asked him to write his resignation letter as directed by the prime minister," he said.

Anwar said that Abdul Rahim also expressed regret, because he claimed to be "my most loyal staunch supporter" but he (Anwar) did not defend him.

He said that later, Abdul Rahim contacted him, after he was investigated by the Inland Revenue Department (JHDN) over cash for which tax had not been paid, at the end of 1995 or early 1996.

"He asked and pleaded with me to cease the imposition of tax by the JHDN because the amount was not his own but accounts for political purposes but I replied that I could not do so," he said.

He said that Abdul Rahim wrote a long letter to Anwar, dated Dec 5, 1995, stating that the prime minister had never put pressure for him to resign.

"It means that he is blaming me for the lost of his position," he said.

He said that in the letter, Abdul Rahim also stated that the JHDN had ransacked his house and the office of RTC, the company belonging to him (Abdul Rahim) but found that he need not pay tax as the money was not his

own.

"Abdul Rahim also claimed that a state liaison head or menteri besar had received RM80 million from a corporate figure and another received RM50 million for Umno but even the amounts went missing," he said.

He said that he did not make any attempt to protect Abdul Rahim from the JHDN and instead told him that the matter was left to the discretion of the JHDN and the Anti Corruption Agency in carrying out their task.

Anwar claimed that Abdul Rahim later displayed his anger with him by attacking him in ceramahs and speeches at various forums.

"I conclude from his speeches that he will go all out to topple me," he said.

He said that later, he found out that a book, "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM" (50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become PM) which contained allegations of his sexual misconduct, had been published through the paper Tempo, owned by Abdul Rahim.

He said that the book was printed at the premises owned by Abdul Rahim here and the publisher was Media Pulau Lagenda, owned by Khalid Jafri and his wife. Khalid Jafri is also the author of the book.

Fernando wanted to tender the book to the court but it was objected to by Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Abdul Gani Patail on the ground that it could only be tendered through its author.

Before adjourning the hearing today, Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka directed both parties to submit on the matter on Monday.

-- BERNAMA

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