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Court-Anwar (Hanif)

TUN HANIF UNHAPPY WITH MY ADVICE, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- Former Inspector-General of Police Tun Hanif Omar was "angry and very unhappy" when advised against becoming a director of a company involved in gambling activities, the High Court here heard today.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said that Hanif reacted that way when he advised him not to accept the offer by Genting Berhad.

He said Hanif instead stated that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had already given his approval for him to do so.

"I had no means of objecting...", he said in answer to his leading counsel, Christopher Fernando, during his testimony on the eighth day of his defence against a charge of sodomising his wife's former driver, Azizan Abu Bakar, 39.

Anwar, 52, is jointly tried with his adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, 38, on separate charges of sodomising Azizan 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 to sodomise Azizan, at the same time and place.

Anwar was sacked as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept 2, last year for his alleged sexual misconduct.

He said he had suggested to Hanif that if necessary, he would try to secure directorships in several other companies for him even though the salaries might not amount to as much as that offered by Genting.

Anwar said that he was informed of Hanif's appointment by the Administration Division of the Treasury as it involved a company dealing in gambling activities.

"I invited Tun Hanif to my office to kindly express my feelings and to advise him to immediately accept the offer of posts in other companies," he said.

Anwar said at that time, K.Ananda Krishnan had already offered Hanif the post of director of Binariang with a very lucrative salary of over RM20,000 a month.

"As such, it was imprudent of Tun Hanif as a Muslim and Inspector-General of Police to accept a high post in a gambling company, even if the monthly salary was RM50,000," he said.

Furthermore, Anwar said, at that time Genting Berhad had just applied to the Treasury to reduce the rates of duties and several exemptions.

"I was more concerned with the image of the Inspector-General of Police because even before that several high-ranking police officers have been appointed directors of gambling companies," he said.

Anwar said Hanif dismissed his views and advice and reiterated that his decision to take up the directorship of the gambling company would not affect the image of the police.

Anwar said that Hanif was adamant in his stand to accept the offer by Genting Berhad even though he had explained to him the possibility that he could be used to influence the Treasury to reduce duty rates.

"...and this I cannot accept," he said.

Anwar also told the court that Hanif met him several times at his house or his office before his retirement.

Hanif, the third prosecution witness, told the court at the previous hearing that the police Special Branch reported to him Anwar's homosexual

activities sometime in 1993 and the prime minister was informed of the matter.

Hanif also said that Anwar had requested a businessman by the name of Datuk Andrew Leong to arrange a meeting with him over the matter in the same year.

However, Anwar denied this in his evidence today, saying that the meeting was arranged on Hanif's request.

The hearing was adjourned to tomorrow after the morning session as Anwar was scheduled to undergo a brain scan at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital this afternoon following his complaints of headaches.

-- BERNAMA

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