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Court-Anwar

SUKMA USED ANOTHER NAME TO RENOVATE APARTMENT - WITNESS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- Businessman Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja used a different name to renovate his Tivoli Villa apartment, the High Court was told today.

His former partner and close friend Rahimazlan Abdul Rahim said Sukma gave his name as "Sudar Tekanawa" in the renovation plan dated Dec 7, 1992.

Rahimazlan, who was in charge of the renovation, said Sukma did not want his actual name to be stated in the plan although the name was used in the sale and purchase agreement.

"The name Sudar Tekanawa was given by Sukma himself...I don't know why he used that name and I don't know if that's his nickname. I didn't ask him," he said.

Sukma, 39, is on trial together with Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, 52, for allegedly sodomising Anwar's former family driver Azizan Abu Bakar at the apartment located in Bangsar, at about 7.45pm on an unspecified day between January and March 1993.

Sukma, who is Anwar's adopted brother, faces a second charge of abetting the former deputy prime minister in sodomising Azizan at the same place and time.

Cross-examined by DPP Tun Majid Tun Hamzah, Rahimazlan said he did not find anything unusual about Sukma not using his real name in the plan.

"That's his unit. I regard him as my head and if that's his wish, I don't question it. Besides, the use of the plan is for the contractor only," he said.

Rahimazlan, 39, who knew Sukma since 1979 and was his partner in their company Megareka Sdn Bhd, said the renovation was carried out by Megareka and Sukma was regarded as a client.

He agreed with Tun Majid that he sympathised with Sukma over what Sukma was going through as they had a close relationship and were like brothers.

Questioned by Sukma's counsel Gobind Singh Deo earlier, Rahimazlan said there were two stages to the renovation, involving "wet and dry works", and it took three to four months to complete.

He said that at one point, the renovation works stopped for two weeks because the workers took leave for Chinese New Year.

He added that during the renovation period, he had to report himself at the guardhouse every time he went to the place.

The court allowed the prosecution's application to adjourn hearing after the morning session because senior DPP Datuk Abdul Gani Patail was unwell.

Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka said the trial would resume tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Anwar's counsel Sankaran Nair said when approached after the trial that the defence had indicated to the prosecution that it wished to have Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad testify on Feb 17.

-- BERNAMA

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