

**Shafee paid RM1,000 to prosecute Anwar in Sodomy II, says minister**  
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**By Jennifer Gomez**

Umno lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah was paid RM1,000 for his services as deputy public prosecutor (DPP) in the second sodomy trial of opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, de facto law minister Nancy Shukri said in Parliament today.

To a question by a DAP lawmaker, Nancy said Shafee was picked by Putrajaya based on his experience as a former DPP, his expertise in handling criminal cases and as a defence lawyer which were all seen as added value in the government's prosecution of Anwar.

Shafee was paid the sum by the Attorney-General Chambers (AGC), and it was now being disclosed after both the AGC and Shafee had agreed to making it public, she said.

"Based on their agreement, the amount paid was RM1,000," Nancy said in reply to Er Teck Hwa (DAP-Bakri) who asked how much Shafee was paid to lead the prosecution against Anwar at the Court of Appeal and Federal Court.

She noted that the question about the fees paid to the lawyer had been raised several times before, but it could not be revealed without being agreed upon by Shafee and the AGC.

Nancy added that the private lawyer was brought in for the sake of impartiality and to avoid criticism against the AGC.

She also told the house that a few lawyers were identified for the job, and that Shafee had agreed to take it on. It was also not unprecedented for the government to engage lawyers from private practice to act as public prosecutor.

Nancy said that for the sake of transparency, given that many lawyers were involved in Anwar's defence team, the opposition should also reveal the cost paid to them.

"Talking about transparency, where did those funds to pay them come from?" she asked.

Answering another supplementary question by Khalid Samad (PAS-Shah Alam), Nancy said despite being offered the chance to debate with Shafee, the Bar Council refused to take up the offer.

To Er's question about about Shafee's roadshow to explain Anwar's sodomy conviction, she said the government had only conducted one event to explain the case to the people, but the rest was done upon request by non-governmental organisations.

Anwar failed to get his sodomy conviction overturned by the Federal Court, which on February 10 upheld the appellate court's guilty verdict and five year-jail sentence.

Anwar was charged with sodomising his former aide Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan in 2008.

He is still an MP pending his family's appeal to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong for a royal pardon.

After that, Shafee embarked on a roadshow sponsored by Umno to explain the verdict, with the first session held by Umno Youth at the Akademi Kepimpinan Kapten Hussein in Petaling Jaya. Shafee also spoke at another event in Penang.

At these sessions, he revealed more salacious details that purportedly took place between Anwar and Saiful.

Recently, however, Umno Youth said it had decided to scale down the roadshows by holding them as closed-door sessions and without Shafee as a speaker, according to the wing's information chief Jamawi Jaafar.

The roadshows have been criticised as continued political persecution of Anwar, who is already serving his jail sentence, while Shafee has been slammed by the Bar Council for unprofessional and unethical conduct. – March 11, 2015.

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