

Anwar's Qazaf Case: Lawyer Files Notice To Recuse From Representing Respondents
Bernama
Mar 24, 2015

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 (Bernama) -- The Syariah Appeals Court was informed today that lawyer Zainul Rijal Abu Bakar had filed a notice to recuse himself from representing Federal Territory Syariah prosecution head Shamsuddin Hussain and two others in Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's qazaf (false accusation of sodomy) case.

Zainul Rijal's lawyer, Abdul Halim Bahari, told the court that his client filed the notice on Oct 10, 2012, and the notice was submitted to Anwar, through his lawyer, Kamar Ainiah Kamaruzaman, today.

The case came up for mention before a three-member panel, comprising Datuk Mahammad Ibrahim, Datuk Aidi Mokhtar and Datuk Hussin Harun.

Prior to this, the Appeal Court, on Sept 26, 2012, had dismissed Zainul Rijal's application after finding that he had filed the notice for the purpose using a wrong form.

Zainul Rijal filed the notice after Anwar filed an application on Aug 18, 2011, seeking to prevent him (Zainul Rijal) from representing Shamsuddin, former Federal Territory Islamic Religious Department (Jawi) director Datuk Che Mat Che Ali and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom.

Anwar filed the application on grounds that Zainul Rijal was unprofessional, dishonest and was not interested in justice.

Abdul Halim told the court that Zainul Rijal's application for recusal would be academic as his client no longer represented the three respondents in Anwar's qazaf case.

"The issue now is whether the applicant (Anwar) wants to go ahead with the qazaf," he added.

Kamar Ainiah objected to Zainul Rijal's action for the delay in submitting the recusal notice and wanted to proceed with the case (to prevent Zainul Rija; from representing the three respondents) so that the matter could be put on record.

The court then set April 27 decide whether Zainul Rijal's application to recuse himself from representing the three respondents could be accepted.

Anwar was present at today's proceeding.

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