

## **Lawyer Gets Permission To Question Anwar On Past Convictions**

**Bernama**

**May 27, 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR, May 27 (Bernama) -- Lawyer Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah obtained permission from the High Court here today to cross-examine Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on his past convictions in the trial of a suit filed by the former Opposition Leader against Senator Datuk S. Nallakaruppan.

Judicial Commissioner Datuk Mohd Zaki Abdul Wahab made the decision after dismissing Anwar's objection to questions on his past convictions by Muhammad Shafee during the hearing.

In his judgment, Mohd Zaki said the questions by Muhammad Shafee were relevant with the pleadings filed by Anwar and that Anwar had to prove that he had good character.

"I found the questions to be asked by Muhammad Shafee are in the form of testimony on character.

"To succeed in this suit, the plaintiff has to prove the pleading that he is indeed of good character," he added.

Anwar's lawyer, Latheefa Koya, told the court that the plaintiff would appeal the decision.

The court set June 16 for resumption of the hearing pending the appeal.

Last May 15, Latheefa Koya objected to Muhammad Shafee's questions on a written judgment by former Chief Justice Tun Abdul Hamid Mohamad in the first sodomy case involving Anwar that he (Anwar) had homosexual tendency.

She also objected to questions on Anwar's conviction in the second sodomy case, where he was sentenced to five years' jail for sodomising his personal aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

Anwar filed the suit against Nallakaruppan (former executive director of Magnum Corporation) on Aug 25, 2008, over the publication of an article, with the title "Anwar terima RM60 juta" (Anwar receives RM60 million) in the Mingguan Malaysia and Sinar Harian newspapers.

Anwar, who is currently serving time in the Sungai Buloh Prison, was in court today.

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