

COURT - FORGERY

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(P)

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 2 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED DENIED IN THE SESSIONS COURT HERE TODAY THAT HE HAD SIGNED A LETTER OR DOCUMENT RELATING TO AN APPLICATION FOR STUDENTS VISA TO AUSTRALIA FOR ONE R. ANANDAKUMAR.

HE SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN APPROACHED BY ANYONE TO HELP IN OBTAINING THE VISA AND HAD NOT DIRECTED ANYONE TO WRITE A LETTER FOR THE PURPOSE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO DENIED THAT KNEW ANANDAKUMAR OR NAMES LIKE HAJI MOHAMED THANI LAMSAH, V. VADIVEL ALIAS ZAINUDDIN ABDULLAH OR MAT HUSIN BIN MAT YASIN.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TESTIFYING AT THE TRIAL OF PENSIONER HAJI MOHAMED THANI, 63, SENIOR TECHNICIAN WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION, VADIVEL, 52 AND BUSINESSMAN MAT HUSIN, 41, JOINTLY CHARGED WITH FORGING A SIGNATURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHEATING.

THEY ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE FORGED A LETTER PURPORTEDLY ISSUED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, WHEN IN FACT NO SUCH LETTER WAS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT. -- MORE 1900/MB

ZCZC N125 (F/S)

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THEY ARE SAID TO HAVE USED THE LETTER TO INDUCE THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO GIVE A FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION TO THE APPLICATION FOR STUDENT'S VISA TO AUSTRALIA FOR STUDENT R. ANANDAKUMAR.

THE OFFENCE WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED AT THE SELANGOR MANSION, JALAN MASJID INDIA HERE BETWEEN APRIL LAST YEAR AND FEB. 23 THIS YEAR.

VADIVEL AND MAT HUSIN ALSO FACE ANOTHER JOINT CHARGE OF USING A FORGED MEMO PURPORTEDLY SIGNED BY DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AT THE SAME PLACE IN APRIL LAST YEAR.

HAJI MOHAMED THANI IS DEFENDED BY ENCIK ABU SEMAN YUSOP, VADIVEL BY ENCIK R. RAJASINGHAM AND MAT HUSIN BY ENCIK GURU S. JOHAL.

IN ANSWER TO DEPUTY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR GOOI SOONG SENG, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO DENIED THAT THE MEMOGRAPH USED IN WRITING THE LETTER FOR THE VISA WAS A NORMAL MEMOGRAPH USED BY HIS DEPARTMENT. -- MORE 1907/MB

ZCZC N126 (F/S)  
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"I HAVE NEVER ISSUED ANY DIRECTIVE AS CONTAINED IN THE MEMO OR MADE ANY ORDER FOR PRINTING TO SYARIKAT PERCETAKAN M.S. DHEEN AND COMPANY," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT THE SIGNATURES ON BOTH THE LETTER AND THE MEMO WERE NOT HIS AS "MY NAME IS SPELT MOHAMAD AND NOT MOHAMED AS APPEARED IN THE LETTER".

CROSS EXAMINED BY ENCIK ABU SEMAN, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT LETTERS NORMALLY USED BY HIS DEPARTMENT WERE NOT BLUE IN COLOUR BUT WERE WHITE OR YELLOW WITH THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT EMBLEM AT THE LEFT HAND CORNER AND THE WORDS PRIME MINISTER AT THE RIGHT HAND CORNER. HIS NAME WAS ALSO NOT WRITTEN ON THE TOP OF THE LETTERS.

TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM ENCIK JOHAL, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE COULD NOT REMEMBER IF THE NAME KHAMIS WAS EVER MENTIONED BY ANYONE TO HIM.

ASKED WHETHER HE KNEW ANYONE BY THE NAME OF KHAMIS WORKING IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE NAMES OF ALL THE STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT. -- MORE 1915/MB

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE SIGNED 10 LETTERS AND MEMOS EVERYDAY AND WOULD NORMALLY READ AND SCRUTINISED THE LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS BEFORE SIGNING THEM.

TO A FURTHER QUESTION BY ENCIK JOHAL HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENT WITHOUT SCRUTINISING THEM AND WOULD NOT PUT DOWN HIS SIGNATURE WHILE SPEAKING ON THE TELEPHONE.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAS ONLY ONE SIGNATURE FOR OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL PURPOSES. "THE SPECIMEN SIGNATURE WHICH APPEARED IN THE MEMO IS DIFFERENT FROM MY SIGNATURE," HE ADDED.

ANOTHER WITNESS, SECOND SECRETARY IN THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN CHARGE OF STUDENTS' AFFAIRS, ENCIK JAMES O'CALLAGHAN, 29, TOLD THE COURT THAT HAJI MOHAMED THANI CAME TO HIS OFFICE AT JALAN YAP KWAN SENG ON JAN. 23.

HE SAID THAT HAJI MOHAMED THANI INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS AN UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FINANCE MINISTER. HAJI MOHAMED THANI ALSO TOLD HIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER FREQUENTLY ASKED HIM TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN TASKS FOR HIM.

-- MORE 1922/MB

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ENCIK O'CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HAJI MOHAMED THANI ALSO BROUGHT A LETTER RELATING TO THE APPLICATION FOR STUDENTS VISA TO AUSTRALIA FOR ANANDAKUMAR WITH THE SIGNATURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

HE PROMISED HAJI MOHAMED THANI THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER AND DISCUSS IT WITH THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER.

HE HAD ASKED HAJI MOHAMED THANI TO LEAVE THE LETTER AT THE OFFICE FOR REFERENCE BUT HE REFUSED AND INSTEAD AGREED TO LEAVE A COPY OF THE LETTER.

ENCIK O'CALLAGHAN SAID THAT HE LATER INFORMED THE MATTER TO THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO CONTACTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT. A SPECIMEN OF THE COPY OF THE LETTER HAD BEEN SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

HE LATER CONTACTED HAJI MOHAMED THANI AND REQUESTED HIM TO COME TO THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION WITH THE ORIGINAL COPY OF THE LETTER ON FEB. 23 BECAUSE THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER WANTED TO SEE IT. -- MORE 1930/MB

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WAS EXAMINED BY JUDGE RAJASINGHAM. ENCIK O'CALLAGHAN SAID THAT ANANDAKUMAR HAD BEEN TO HIS OFFICE WITH HIS FATHER REQUESTING THAT HIS APPLICATION BE CONSIDERED.

HE SAID THAT ANANDAKUMAR HAD BEEN STUDYING IN ONE OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN AUSTRALIA IN 1976 BUT RETURNED HERE LAST YEAR AFTER HE WAS ORDERED TO DO SO BECAUSE HE HAD OVERSTAYED.

HE ADDED THAT ANANDAKUMAR'S APPLICATION FOR VI TO COMPLETE HIS STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES BUT THE HIGH COMMISSION HAD TO RECONSIDER THE APPLICATION IN VIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AS SHOWN BY HAJI MOHAMED THANI.

HE SAID THAT THE HIGH COMMISSION HAD RECEIVED RECOMMENDATION LETTERS FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHEN APPLICATION FOR STUDENTS VISA WERE MADE.

HE HOWEVER SAID THAT THE APPLICATIONS WERE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION AND THE RECOMMENDATION LETTERS WERE NOT GIVEN PRIORITY.

THE HEARING WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW. --BERNAMA 2020/MD