

UMMI

9

TELLS WHY

3 22 . 12 . 98

Witness: I wanted to put a stop to sinful unnatural actions

KUALA LUMPUR: Ummi Hafilda Ali told the Anwar Ibrahim trial yesterday that she accused the former deputy prime minister of adultery and sodomy because she wanted to "save" her brother and for the sake of Umno.

Ummi Hafilda, who listed seven reasons for writing to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said she asked him to save her brother Mohd Azmin, who was Anwar's former private secretary, "so he would not have to continue to serve a hypocrite who had betrayed him."

She said she wanted Anwar, who is also alleged to have sodomised his wife's former driver Azizan Abu Bakar, to be punished to deter other leaders.

Ummi Hafilda, who said that she wanted to put a stop to "sinful unnatural actions like sex between the same gender, which is condemned by Allah," never once looked at Anwar, not even when she was asked to identify him.

She claimed she was mentally tortured by the Special Branch to retract her allegations against Anwar after she and Azizan were arrested on Aug 17 last year.

Barely an hour before Ummi Hafilda took the stand, another

High Court ordered the release of Anwar's adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, on bail.

However, Sukma was only released at 3.10pm after his business partner Azlan Abdul Rahim posted the bail of RM10,000.

Sukma and Anwar's former speechwriter, Dr Munawar Ahmad Aness, were each sentenced to six months in jail on Sept 19 after they pleaded guilty to being sodomised by Anwar.

Sukma, whose sentence ends on Jan 5, and Dr Munawar have appealed against their conviction and sentence, saying police had coerced them into pleading guilty.

Sukma also filed a notice of appeal in the Federal Court yesterday against the decision of the Court of Appeal on Saturday which held that **syariah** courts did not have the exclusive right, under the Federal Constitution, to try sodomy cases involving Muslims.

In another High Court, the judge adjourned to tomorrow Anwar's civil action against the Prime Minister and the Government for dismissal, for further submissions.