

Seven reasons Ummi wrote to PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Ummi Hafilda Ali, the much-awaited prosecution witness in the Anwar Ibrahim trial, told the High Court yesterday that she was convinced that the former deputy prime minister was a homosexual and she also suspected that he had had an affair with her sister-in-law.

Ummi Hafilda, 31, director of Karisma Advertising Company, told the court she was threatened into writing a letter retracting her allegations during interrogation after police arrested her at Dr Ristina Majid's house on Aug 17 last year.

Earlier, the court stood down twice to wait for Ummi Hafilda, the 17th prosecution witness, to arrive.

After Bandaraya Development Bhd property management manager Emily Kao finished her testimony at 9.30am, Senior DPP Azahar Mohamed told the court that the next witness would be Ummi Hafilda.

His announcement brought murmurs from Anwar's family members, who had been waiting to hear Ummi Hafilda, who had made the allegations against Anwar in her letter *Perihal Salahlaku TPM* (Wrongdoings of the DPM) addressed to the Prime Minister.

However, when a court police officer returned a few minutes later saying she was not in the witness room, Azahar asked Justice S. Augustine Paul for a short adjournment, say-

ing "I would like to call her before anyone else."

When there was still no sign of Ummi Hafilda at 10am, Azahar called Asst Supt Wan Zainuddin Wan Mahmood instead.

After ASP Wan Zainuddin completed his testimony just before 10.30am, Justice Paul adjourned the court again after waiting several minutes for Ummi Hafilda and finally resumed with Ummi Hafilda at 10.40am.

Ummi Hafilda said that one of the victims of An-

war's homosexual activities who was brave to come forward was Datin Seri Wan Azizah Ismail's former driver, Azizan Abu Bakar.

She added that Anwar also had had an affair with Shamsidar Taharin, the wife of her brother, Mohd Azmin, who was also Anwar's private secretary.

When asked to identify Anwar, Ummi Hafilda did not look at the accused but said: "He is in the dock."

Azahar: What is his name?

Ummi Hafilda: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

In her letter to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Ummi Hafilda listed seven reasons why she was sending it:

- FOR the Prime Minister to use his discretion and investigate every report submitted;

- FOR protection for the writer and the writer's family;

- TO uphold the truth for the sake of the party (Umno) and the country;

- THAT the whole family had suffered emotional stress since the case became known;

- FOR "YAB" to save "our brother, Mohd Azmin from continuing to serve Anwar, who is a hypocrite and who has betrayed him";

- TO plead for a commensurate sentence because if the allegations against Anwar were true, it should be a reminder to other leaders not to abuse

their power through their position; and

- TO put a stop to sinful unnatural actions like sex between the same gender, which is condemned by Allah.

Ummi Hafilda said she had known Dr Ristina for the last four years as she was her dentist and was also a friend through their involvement in the Women's Entrepreneur Association.

She added that she had known Azizan since he worked as Shamsidar's driver in late 1996.

In Bukit Aman, she said, she was interrogated continuously between midnight and 7am on Aug 18 by a team of Special Branch officers.

Ummi Hafilda said she

was informed by police that her arrest was connected to the letter she had sent to the Prime Minister.

She said she went with Asst Supt Zulkifli Mohamed to her office the next day and that police seized a computer disk containing her letter and Azizan's sworn statement which she had labelled "X-rated" and "XXX-rated."

She said police also seized two copies of her letter, five copies of Azizan's sworn statement and 22 copies of her handwritten drafts.

She said she was released on police bail at midnight on Aug 19 after she signed the retraction letter.