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Daim 'reluctant to give PM letter'

47/48

KUALA LUMPUR: Ummi Hafilda Ali told the court that Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin was reluctant to give her letter to the Prime Minister at first but agreed to do so after hearing her suspicions.

She said she went to see Daim about 10 days before Aug 5, 1997 (the date on her letter *Perihal Salah Laku TPM* (Wrongdoings of the TPM)), and told him of her suspicions against Anwar in the half hour that she was with him.

Ummi Hafilda, the 17th prosecution witness, said this during cross-examination by Anwar's lawyer, Gurbachan Singh.

She said she met Daim only once at his office in August 1997 in connection with the letter.

Gurbachan: You met him before you sent the letter to the Prime Minister?

Ummi Hafilda: Yes, before I sent the letter.

Gurbachan: He told you to put it in writing?

Ummi Hafilda: That's not true, he did not ask me to write the letter because I was the one who asked him to pass the letter to the Prime Minister.



sure that the Prime Minister got your letter?

Ummi Hafilda: That, I'm not sure, but I was told by Ziela that the letter had been given to the Prime Minister.

She admitted that she had also discussed her suspicions with Ziela and that Megat Junid had arranged for her meeting with Daim.

Gurbachan: You've met Datuk Seri Megat Junid many times?

Ummi Hafilda: Not at all, the last time I met him was a year ago.

Gurbachan: Before that you always meet him?

Ummi Hafilda: Not true, I dealt with his wife, Ziela Jalil.

Gurbachan: You're saying you've never met him?

Ummi Hafilda: Yes, I've met him but only at Pemadam official functions.

Gurbachan: Who arranged your meeting with Tun Daim?

is the Prime Minister's political secretary, before sending the letter.

Ummi Hafilda said she met Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik twice in 1997 and in one of the meetings, she met him at his office together with her business partner Zamrah Lajis.

Asked if Zamrah was the daughter-in-law of Tun Ghafar Baba, Ummi Hafilda said: "Oh no, she's not."

She said her meeting with Rahim at the office of Malaysian Airports Berhad chairman Tan Sri Basir Ismail was a coincidence.

Ummi Hafilda also denied meeting Rahim together with Ziela several times at the Shangri-la Hotel.

She admitted however that she did discuss the matter with Rahim.

Gurbachan: Didn't you also meet him in Penang?

Ummi Hafilda: Oh yes, I forgot about that, the last time I met him, coincidentally, was in Penang at the *majlis penerangan* (briefing function).

Gurbachan: Any other coincidental meeting with Tan Sri Rahim?

Ummi Hafilda: I don't

vate letter without my consent."

She admitted that there was a photo of her together with Shamsidar and Anwar at an Umno general assembly in the book.

Justice Paul then allowed Gurbachan Singh to ask two short questions.

Gurbachan: Are you aware that Tengku Adnan was the chairman of Seputih division?

Ummi Hafilda: I do not know Tengku Adnan's political career or Khairud-

She said she knew that

she said.

Asked why she did not report to Daim and Megat Junid about her arrest on Aug 17 last year, Ummi Hafilda said she could not trust any politician or the police because "the arrest incident had become a phobia in my life".

After the 11.10am break, when Gurbachan Singh resumed questioning, Ummi Hafilda said she met Azmin, Azman and businessman Datuk Sng Chee Hua during a family dinner at the Restoran Sri Melayu on July 14 where she was asked to co-operate.

Gurbachan: At this meeting, did you not admit to Azmin that you did not write P14abc (Ummi Hafilda's letter and Azizan's sworn statement alleging Anwar of having an illicit affair with his former private secretary's wife and sodomising Azizan).

Ummi Hafilda: I disagree that I said that but I did say that I was not the author of *50 Dalil*.

Gurbachan: Didn't Azmin then ask you why you involved Datuk Seri Anwar unnecessarily in your family misunderstanding?

disagree.

Gurbachan: Is it not correct that on a certain day, you were picked up by the driver of (Minister of Special Functions) Tun Daim (Zainuddin) and dropped at the Century Park Club where Tun Daim was waiting in another car nearby?

Ummi Hafilda: The counsel's allegations never occurred.

Gurbachan: There is such a club in Taman Melawati?

Ummi Hafilda: Yes.

Gurbachan: And Tun Daim stays there?

Ummi Hafilda: Right.

Gurbachan: Isn't it true that you met Tun Daim nearby and Khalid Jafri was there?

Ummi Hafilda: Not true. I never met them in another car.

Gurbachan: Isn't it true that Tun Daim showed you in the car *50 Dalil* and that it will be published for the Umno general assembly?

Ummi Hafilda: No.

Gurbachan: In fact, you met Azmin on four occasions after coming back from London, and said that Megat Junid and his wife were the culprits in this issue?

Gurbachan: You had the letter with you then?

Ummi Hafilda: No, it was still in my possession.

Gurbachan: So, you did not give him the letter when you met him that day?

Ummi Hafilda: No, I did not but I gave the letter to him a few days after the first meeting.

Gurbachan: How many days after?

Ummi Hafilda: I'm not sure, maybe four to five days.

Gurbachan: Did you hand it to him personally?

Ummi Hafilda: No, I gave it to Ziela (Jalil) at her house so that she could give it to her husband.

Gurbachan: What about the letter to Tun Daim?

Ummi Hafilda: I asked Datuk Seri Megat Junid (Megat Ayub) to give it to Tun Daim.

Gurbachan: At this meeting with Tun Daim, did you request him to send the letter to Prime Minister?

Ummi Hafilda: Yes.

Gurbachan: And he agreed to do so?

Ummi Hafilda: At first he was reluctant but after listening to my story that there was basis in the report, he finally agreed to help me give the letter to the Prime Minister.

Gurbachan: Did you en-

Ummi Hafilda: It was arranged by Datuk Seri Megat Junid.

Ummi Hafilda said if she was not mistaken she had given three copies of her letter to Ziela, addressed to the Prime Minister, Tun Daim and Ziela.

Gurbachan: Did you give any instructions to Ziela?

Ummi Hafilda: No, I did not give any instructions.

Gurbachan: Did you ask Megat Junid to send the letter to the Prime Minister?

Ummi Hafilda: Yes, I asked him through Ziela but he suggested instead that I see Tun Daim who is closer to the Prime Minister.

Gurbachan: But you made such a request?

Ummi Hafilda: Yes, I did ask him, through Ziela, to give the letter to the Prime Minister.

Gurbachan: He refused your request?

Ummi Hafilda: It does not mean that he refused my request but he suggested that I meet Tun Daim.

Ummi Hafilda also admitted that she discussed her suspicions with Dr Ristina Majid in August last year.

She said she also discussed the matter at Dr Ristina's office with Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin, who

remember, I'm not sure. She denied ever meeting Tan Sri Sanusi Junid.

Ummi Hafilda said that she went to London twice together with her business partner Datuk Sng Chee Hua and that on the first trip in 1992, Megat Junid and his family had come along.

Ummi Hafilda said she was involved in politics the last few years but had never been a delegate to the Umno general assembly.

"I have attended the assembly as an observer," she said.

Ummi Hafilda said she did not know how her letter came to be included in the book *50 Dalil* and that it was done without her consent.

She said although she was quite close now to the writer of the book Khalid Jafri because they meet every day in court, Khalid had refused to reveal his source.

Ummi Hafilda said she introduced herself to Khalid in court at the mention of the application for an injunction against him.

Asked if she had scolded Khalid for including her letter in his book, **Ummi Hafilda** said: "I did not scold him, but I did ask him, diplomatically, why he had used my pri-

Khairuddin Abu Hassan was the publisher of *50 Dalil*.

Ummi Hafilda also admitted that she knew Umno Seputih division chief Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

Gurbachan: He is a rich man?

Ummi Hafilda: I'm not sure because I'm not close to him.

Justice S. Augustine Paul asked for the relevancy of the question but allowed **Gurbachan Singh** to continue.

Gurbachan: Do you agree that the first delegate to receive the book at the Umno general assembly was the Seputih division?

Justice Paul interjected again, asking the relevancy and when **Gurbachan Singh** did not want to say out loud the purpose of the line of questioning, the judge told him to write it on a piece of paper.

After reading the piece of paper, Justice Paul said he did not think it was relevant.

"We have specific instructions from our client," **Gurbachan** insisted, saying that they could not reveal their intention as it would defeat the purpose of the cross-examination.

Senior DPP Mohd Yusof

din's for that matter.

Gurbachan: I put it to you that you did write a letter earlier to the Prime Minister complaining about not getting contracts, before you wrote P14 (her letter to the Prime minister).

Ummi Hafilda: I disagree.

To another question, **Ummi Hafilda** said she called Megat Junid from Dr Ristina Majid's house on Aug 17 last year to ask for his assistance.

"Datuk Seri Megat Junid told me to call Tan Sri Norian Mai (then CID Director) to make sure that the police have arrived," **Ummi Hafilda** said.

She said she called Norian at 7pm and he told her to follow police instructions.

Later, in re-examination by Senior DPP Azahar Mohamed, **Ummi Hafilda** said her meeting with Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin was after she had written her letter to the Prime Minister.

She also clarified that she had obtained contracts from Pemadam in 1992 without the help of Megat Junid.

"I presented the application through the Pemadam Kebangsaan committee chaired by Datin Paduka Rakibah Manap,"

Ummi Hafilda: No, he did not ask that question.

Gurbachan: Azmin then told you that what you did was not right?

Ummi Hafilda: No.

Gurbachan: Did Azmin advise you not to be used by politicians for their own agenda?

Ummi Hafilda: Azmin did tell me not to be used by politicians but I disagreed, because to me I had never been used by any corporate or political figures.

Gurbachan: You then apologised and said that you and Azizan (Abu Bakar) were used by politicians?

Ummi Hafilda: No, I disagree.

Gurbachan: You also apologised to Azman?

Ummi Hafilda: I never apologised to him that night. Instead, I kept quiet most of the time.

Gurbachan: It was at this dinner that you admitted to Azmin that your letter was engineered by Megat Junid and circulated by him?

Ummi Hafilda: No, I did not.

Gurbachan: It was at this dinner that you said that after Megat had drafted the letter, he passed it to you to get it typed and gave it to Puan Ziela Jalil?

Ummi Hafilda: No, I

Ummi Hafilda: I disagree.

Gurbachan: Do you recall calling Azmin and speaking to him on his handphone on Sept 15 this year when he was in Seremban, Nilai?

Ummi Hafilda: You mean after DPM was sacked?

Gurbachan: Yes.

Ummi Hafilda: Yes, I did on Sept 15. (I) asked him to return to the right path and not to abet hypocrites.

Gurbachan: In fact, in that conversation you congratulated him on his impending arrest and told him to enjoy his stay in prison?

Ummi Hafilda: No, I did not say that but I did say "*jangan rapat dengan seorang peliwat* (don't be close with a sodomite)."

Gurbachan: That evening, the IGP made a statement that Azmin is to be arrested and there was a warrant of arrest for him?

Ummi Hafilda: I can't remember that.

Gurbachan: Some time in June 1997, you informed your family that you were seeing Datuk Seri Megat Junid, Tun Daim, Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin.

Ummi Hafilda: Not true.