

Abdul Gani: Letter to PM is key to charges

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KUALA LUMPUR: The key to the four corruption charges against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is a letter dated Oct 5 last year addressed to the Prime Minister, Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Abdul Gani Patail said in his opening statement yesterday.

He said the letter from Ummi Hafilda Ali to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad referred to Anwar's misconduct.

He added that enclosed with the letter was a sworn confession by Azizan Abu Bakar and a letter entitled *Talqin Terbuka Untuk Anwar Ibrahim* (Final Prayers For Anwar Ibrahim).

Abdul Gani said when Anwar came to know of the letter and its contents, he took all sorts of actions to deny the allegations by using the Special Branch.

"The accused, as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, had ordered Special Branch director Datuk Mohd Said Awang and Special



Branch deputy director II Datuk Amir Junus to see him at his official residence, and in those meetings, among other things, had given specific instructions regarding the letters and the sworn confession," he said.

He added that, as a result, the Special Branch had obtained denial letters from Ummi Hafilda and Azizan, dated Aug 18 and Aug 29 last year, respectively, which purportedly clarified and repudiated the contents of Ummi's letter dated Aug 5 and Azizan's sworn confession.

Abdul Gani said the prosecution would prove beyond reasonable doubt through witnesses and documents tendered that Anwar had used his position as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister for his own benefit.