

Witness has difficulty remembering

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Mohd Said Awang had difficulty remembering the contents of the report he had sent to the Prime Minister in August 1997 on the allegations against the former deputy prime minister.

While he said he could not remember whether he had told Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the allegations were politically motivated, he did not deny it either.

Mohd Said, who has been in the police force for about 30 years, was unable to remember details when pressed during cross-examination by counsel Christopher Fernando.

When Fernando asked him for a gist of the report he had written to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Mohd Said replied: "I reported to him, if I am not mistaken, I passed the two letters of apology (by Ummi Hafilda and Azizan) to him.

Fernando: What is the gist of your report?

Mohd Said: I also passed to the PM either the *Talqin* (Final Rites for Anwar Ibrahim) or Ummi's letter and a short covering letter from me.

Fernando: What is the gist of your report?

Mohd Said: I don't remember. I know I sent all these letters.

On the issue of whether he had mentioned that the allegations against Anwar were politically motivated, Mohd Said said he did not quite remember having said it.

Fernando: But you don't

MAIN POINTS

1. Datuk Mohd Said Awang said he "may or may not" lie in court if ordered to do so by his superior,
2. Datuk Mohd Said Awang's report to the Prime Minister stated the allegations against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim were false.
3. Datuk Mohd Said Awang said he did not tell his men to force Ummi Hafilda Ali and Azizan Abu Bakar to lie in their retraction letters.

deny it?

Mohd Said: I don't deny it. But I don't remember.

Fernando: Did you state that Datuk (Seri) Megat Junid and his wife and a few others were behind this plot to topple Anwar?

Mohd Said: I don't think I wrote such things. I doubt very much.

Fernando: The report would show all that you have said, right?

Mohd Said: (Nods his head.)

Fernando: Did you mention the name of Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin?

Mohd Said: I may have.

Fernando: Who is this Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin?

Mohd Said: He is one of the (political) secretaries to the PM.

Fernando: Did you mention the name of Daim Zainuddin in your report?

Mohd Said: I may have.

Fernando: Did you mention the name of Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik?

Mohd Said: I may have.

Fernando: Did you mention the name of Datuk Megat and his wife, Ziela?

Mohd Said: I'm not sure (about) that one.

Fernando: But she's the wife?

Mohd Said: Yes.

Fernando: In what context did you write their names?

Mohd Said: I'm not sure whether I did write something political. These names' Daim, Rahim Tamby Chik, and Megat Junid are political. I don't deny mentioning their names in the report.

Mohd Said said he might have mentioned as well that two people had impersonated the police and met with Ummi Hafilda and Azizan.

Asked whether he had said that the two impostors were sent to put pressure on Ummi Hafilda and Azizan to make false allegations against Anwar, Mohd Said replied that he could not remember.

The defence later applied for the production of the report but Justice S. Augustine Paul ruled that the counsel should make a formal application for a summons.

Senior DPP Datuk Abdul Gani Patail said the report was with the Special Branch and he did not object to producing it in

court if the prosecution had a copy of it.

"I have to check as these are Special Branch documents".

Abdul Gani: They may be classified documents. I don't know whether it is *rahsia besar*.

Fernando: Id 18 (Azizan's retraction letter) is classified as *rahsia besar*.

Judge: But documents can be reclassified and the authority need not tell anybody. Abdul Gani's point is a good point. I have to follow the law. (Looking at Abdul Gani) Check whether you can produce it.

Raja Aziz Addruse: It's a question of principle here, My Lord. What happens if another witness comes to court and mentions another report, do we have to interrupt the proceedings and apply for a summons every time.

Judge: You have to wait for the prosecution to check.

Raja Aziz: But we want the document now.

Judge: You can't demand you want it now.

Raja Aziz: We can.

Judge: We have to wait. What more can I do?

Raja Aziz: What if we can't get it by then?

Judge: Then you will have to get it by other ways. They will let us know tomorrow.

When Fernando said that it was difficult to cross-examine the witness without the document, Justice Paul told him to proceed on other issues as "my hands are tied".