

Debate over 'second report'

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KUALA LUMPUR: The controversy over whether a second report, said to contain the names of alleged conspirators against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, existed continued into the sixth day of the corruption trial of the former deputy prime minister.

While lawyers for Anwar insisted that there was another report given to the Prime Minister, apart from the cover letter by outgoing Special Branch Director Comm Datuk Mohd Said Awang, the prosecution informed Justice S. Augustine Paul that there was no such second report.

Counsel Christopher Fernando said Anwar had told them there was one and, therefore, the defence was making all effort to find the document.

Before ending the cross-examination of Mohd Said, Fernando told Justice Paul that the de-



fence might have to recall the witness at a later date.

Senior DPP Abdul Gani Patail then informed the court that such a report did not exist.

Abdul Gani: For the record, I wish to state that the prosecution has been informed that there is no such report by Mohd Said, dated Sept 3, 1997, addressed to the PM, signed or unsigned.

Judge: Why don't we ask Mohd Said to go back and check.

Abdul Gani: The witness is no longer the director. Once he leaves he has no access to the documents.

Judge: Then a serving officer can come and testify to that fact.

Abdul Gani: Mohd Said

has already said there is no such report. He had said that he was quite certain that there was no such report.

Fernando: May I interrupt. We are asking the witness for a report handed over to the PM. Whether it is addressed to him is not the question.

Judge: (Speaking to witness) Think very carefully. Is there such a report?

Mohd Said: I am certain that there is no second report, after looking at D25 (Mohd Said's report to the Prime Minister dated Aug 20, 1997).

Judge: (Speaking to Fernando) Then you look through your sources.

During the re-examination, Fernando objected several times to Abdul

Gani's line of questioning which he said was leading the witness and had strayed beyond the ambit of the charges.

At one point, Fernando objected to the prosecution's question on why the Special Branch had stopped the investigation into Anwar's case, saying the answer would introduce new evidence.

Abdul Gani said the questions were based on the cover letter by Mohd Said to the Prime Minister, which was tendered by the defence.

Justice Paul dismissed the objection and ruled that the prosecution had the right to put forward the questions as they had direct bearing to the charge.