

THE LETTER

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Witness reads out Umami's allegations against Anwar

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KUALA LUMPUR: A prosecution witness read out in the High Court yesterday a letter alleging that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had a homosexual relationship with his former driver and a secret affair with the wife of his former private secretary.

Special Branch officer Deputy Supt Abdul Aziz Hussin said the two allegations, along with several others, were contained in a letter by Umami Hafilda Ali to the Prime Minister entitled "*Perihal Salahlaku Timbalan Perdana Menteri* (The Wrongdoings of the Deputy Prime Minister)."

The second prosecution witness, who testified in Bahasa Malaysia, said the letter accused Anwar of being a homosexual and that one of his victims was his former driver, Azizan Abu Bakar, who later become the driver for Anwar's former private secretary, Mohd Azmin Ali, who is also Umami Hafilda's brother.

He said the other main allegation in her letter was that Anwar was having an illicit affair with Mohd Azmin's wife Shamsidar Taharin.

There was pin-drop silence in the court when DSP Abdul Aziz read out the two paragraphs:

"1. (He) is a homosexual by his having sex with his own gender and one of his victims, who was brave enough to come forward, is his former driver, that is Azizan Abu Bakar, who is now the driver for Mohamad Azmin Ali.

"(He) is having an illicit affair with Shamsidar Taharin, that is the wife of his private secretary Mohamad Azmin Ali."

Among those listening attentively were Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail and daughter Nurul Nuha.

Everyone was jerked out of their concentration when Senior DPP Azahar Mohamad, who was conducting the examination-in-chief, asked for the hearing to be adjourned to today because it was already after 4pm.

Earlier, DSP Abdul Aziz, 42, testified that a copy of the letter was handed to him by Asst Comm Mazlan Din on Aug 17 last year after the arrest of Umami Hafilda and Azizan at the house of one Dr Ristina Majid.

Pointing with his right thumb to Anwar, who is on trial on four charges of corruption, DSP Abdul Aziz identified him as the deputy prime minister mentioned in the letter.

DSP Abdul Aziz also testified that on Aug 15 last year, he was instructed by ACP Mazlan to form an interrogation team which was to be put on "active standby" to question a "female target" who was being investigated by ACP Mazlan then.