

22 DEC 1998

Court-Anwar (Inducement)

AZMIN BRIBED MY FATHER TO DISOWN ME, SAYS UMMI HAFILDA

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- Ummi Hafilda Ali told the corruption trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the High Court here today that her brother, Mohamed Azmin Ali, had bought a bungalow and a luxury car to induce their father to disown her.

"This happened without my knowledge but I dare say that Azmin had bribed my father to do such a thing," she said.

She said that her mother, two sisters and a brother could come to court to relate what actually happened.

Ummi Hafilda, 31, the writer of the letter "Perihal Salahlaku Timbalan Perdana Menteri" (The Matter Of The Misconduct Of The Deputy Prime Minister) containing allegations of sexual misconduct against the former deputy prime minister and the former finance minister, was testifying under cross-examination.

Anwar, 51, faces four charges of corrupt practice with using his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

He is charged under Section 2(1) of the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance No 22 of 1970 which carries a maximum jail term of 14 years or a fine of RM20,000 or both on conviction.

The case is heard by Justice Datuk S. Augustine Paul.

Ummi Hafilda, the 17th prosecution witness, was cross-examined by Christopher Fernando, one of Anwar's nine lawyers.

Mohamed Azmin was Anwar's former private secretary.

In the letter, which was sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in August last year, Ummi Hafilda claims that Mohamed Azmin's wife, Shamsidar Taharin, had an affair with Anwar.

When Fernando questioned Ummi Hafilda in reference to a statutory declaration by her father, Ali Omar, Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohamed Yusof Zainal Abiden objected, saying that it had no relevance to the case.

Anwar's leading counsel, Raja Aziz Addruse, said that the question was vital because one of the reasons given by Ummi Hafilda when sending the letter to the prime minister was to restore her safety and that of her family.

He said that the issue of her being disowned was one of them and the defence was not discrediting her but wanted to show that her family disagreed with her and had nothing to do with the letter.

When the judge allowed the question, Ummi Hafilda read a paragraph of the statutory declaration which states that: "On Sept 1, 1998, at 5.20pm, I have summoned her eldest sister and informed that sister of hers that from that date, that is Sept 1, 1998, I have disowned Ummi Hafilda and no longer recognises her as my child in this world and the hereafter and am leaving instructions that she should never again return to my house".

When Ummi Hafilda gave her reply to the question based on the statutory declaration, Fernando proceeded with another question but was objected to by Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Datuk Abdul Gani Patail, saying that it was not her family which was on trial.

When the judge asked about the question, Fernando said: "So now you are making accusations against your father and your brother".

Ummi Hafilda: I am not blaming my father over this matter because I believe there is a schemer behind this, that is Azmin, who has presented my

father with a bungalow worth, if I am not mistaken, RM300,000, and a Perdana which was bought cash, after the case of the "50 Dalil..." came about.

She disagreed with the suggestion that the house was built by her father from his pensions payment and his own money while the car was only bought this year.

In raising objections to the statutory document, Abdul Gani said that it had not been proven as to who had made the document. He said that it was dated Nov 12, this year while the case before the court occurred last year.

Fernando: We are going to show there was no family unity at any time as said by this witness.

Ummi Hafilda: I do not agree. I am more aware of what was happening in my family.

Fernando: You keep quiet, I'm talking to the judge. You just answer my question.

When Fernando questioned Ummi Hafilda over paragraph 20 of the statutory declaration in which Ali alleged that his daughter had sold his Mercedes Benz, Abdul Gani again objected and when the senior deputy public prosecutor and Fernando were arguing over the issue, Ummi Hafilda said: "As far as I am concerned, the court is not discussing my moral principles but that of the accused and I do not agree with paragraph 20.".

There was a commotion in the public gallery following her statement.

Ummi Hafilda also did not agree to the defence's suggestion that Azmin and his family were offended by her actions.

The managing director of Karisma Adivertising admitted in court that she and one Khairuddin Abu Hassan whom she knew for hardly a year, had written a note, which was derogatory, dated Sept 20, 1998, to Anwar.

When asked why she had used abusive words towards Anwar, she said: "He deserves it because to me, he had deceived all Malaysians and had blamed the prime minister and others for his own evil ways".

She disagreed with the defence suggestion that she had deceived the whole nation for money.

Ummi Hafilda also disagreed that she had admitted to her father that she did all that for money and which led him to disown her.

"That is a false allegation by counsel against me," she said.

Fernando: You have confessed to Azmin that you did it all for money and it is too late to back out.

Ummi Hafilda: Once again, another big lie by Azmin, to save himself and his boss.

-- BERNAMA

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