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Court-Anwar (Daim)

DAIM, MEGAT JUNID NOT INVOLVED IN ANTI-ANWAR LETTER - AMIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Tun Daim Zainuddin and Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob were not involved in writing and circulating a letter alleging Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sexual misconduct, the High Court heard today.

Former Special Branch deputy director Datuk Amir Junus said this was evident from a subsequent letter written by the author, Umi Hafilda Ali.

The first letter was titled "Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri" (The Matter of the Deputy Prime Minister's Misconduct), while the second contained an apology to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Amir said that in the second letter, Umi stated that Daim advised her to prepare a written report before handing it to the prime minister.

He was testifying at the trial of Anwar, 51, who faces four charges of corrupt practice for abusing his position to interfere with police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

Anwar 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.

Amir said two other persons mentioned in the second letter, Ziela Jalil and Dr Ristina Majid, were also found not to be involved with the first letter.

"The first paragraph on the third page of the (second) letter states that Datuk Seri Megat Junid, Ziela Jalil and Dr Ristina were not involved in fabricating any allegation made by Ummi Hafilda," he said.

Daim and Megat Junid, both cabinet ministers, were at that time Economic Adviser to the Government and Deputy Home Minister, respectively.

Zeila is Megat Junid's wife, who along with Dr Ristina, are close friends of Umi.

Amir said he understood from the second letter that Ummi met Daim at Daim's office in early August last year.

Earlier, during cross-examination by counsel Gurbachan Singh, Amir said he was uncertain if the Special Branch had brought up the names of Megat Junid, Daim and Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin (the prime minister's political secretary) with Anwar.

Amir, however, said the names of the three persons were mentioned in Umi's letter of apology.

He said Anwar told Special Branch officials to track Ummi and his (Anwar's) former driver Azizan Abu Bakar to get information as they had made allegations against him.

He rejected counsel's suggestion that Anwar had never issued such a directive.

Amir said he briefed Anwar from time to time on the progress of investigations and about information gathered.

He disagreed with Gurbachan that there were no telephone conversations between him and Anwar on the case, and that Anwar had never expressed satisfaction or dissatisfaction with any documents.

Amir was also asked if the Special Branch probe showed the existence of a political conspiracy against Anwar, and if Azizan and Ummi were prepared to withdraw their allegations.

Amir said Anwar asked the the Special Branch officers to do something to get Azizan and Umi to retract their allegations.

He said Anwar never issued any specific directive on "turning over" and "neutralising" Azizan and Umi, but the Special Branch employed the process due to a lack of time. The process took only 24 hours.

Amir disagreed with counsel that Anwar had never sought a meeting with Azizan at the Special Branch officer although it was not recorded in his file notes.

He also said he was unsure if he had, when briefing on the distribution of the letter containing allegation against Anwar, mentioned the involvement of Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik (former Melaka chief minister) and the employment of 40 people for the purpose.

-- BERNAMA

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