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No prominent names mentioned (HL)

Ruslaini Abbas; Carolyn Hong

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - A report by outgoing Special Branch director Datuk Mohd Said Awang on the sex allegations against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, which was produced in court today, did not name any prominent persons.

The witness also said he did not think he had written another report.

The report dated Aug 20 last year was sent by him to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad along with letters by Ummi Hafilda Ali and Azizan Abu Bakar retracting the sex allegations they made against Anwar.

Mohd Said said in the report that the allegations against Anwar were baseless and possibly "encouraged" by "a group with its own agenda".

The report said police interrogation of Ummi Hafilda and Azizan showed that the allegations were baseless and made on mere belief and suspicion.

It said Ummi Hafilda based her allegations on suspicions that her sister-in-law Shamsidar Taharin was having an affair with Anwar. Shamsidar is married to Ummi Hafilda's brother Mohamed Azmin Ali, who is Anwar's former private secretary.

It also said Azizan made his allegations after being influenced by Ummi Hafilda and as Mohamed Azmin's driver, he did not like Shamsidar's arrogance.

Ummi Hafilda had made the sex allegations in a letter Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri (The matter of the misconduct of the Deputy Prime Minister). Azizan had made his in a sworn statement.

Mohd Said said in the report that investigations "through other sources" also turned up no proof of the allegations and "the train of events appeared to have been deliberately created."

It said there appeared to be "a certain group which might have an agenda" in encouraging Ummi Hafilda and Azizan to smear Anwar. Mohd Said named one person - Mohd Taib Salamon, a former police inspector who was fired from the service.

The report was produced today after Mohd Said said under cross-examination yesterday that he may have written a report to the Prime Minister saying the allegations were baseless. It was made available by the prosecution "in the interest of justice".

(Mohd Said had testified yesterday and on Wednesday that he believed the allegations and was told by his officers there was basis for them.)

Mohd Said who is on leave prior to retirement on Nov 17, is the prosecution's first witness in the trial of four charges of corrupt practices against Anwar.

Anwar, 51, is charged with using his positions to protect himself from criminal proceedings, by directing Mohd Said and his deputy Datuk Amir Junus to obtain statements from Ummi Hafilda and Azizan to deny his sexual misconduct. (See charges on Page 4)

He faces another charge of corrupt practice and five of sodomy. He was removed as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Sept 2.

Other than Mohd Taib, Mohd Said named no other persons in his report. However, the defence contends that there is a second report which named prominent persons. Yesterday, Mohd Said said he may have mentioned Tun Daim Zainuddin, Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, his wife Norzilah Jalil, Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik and Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin in a report.

(Daim is Special Functions Minister, Megat Junid is Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, Rahim is former Malacca Chief Minister and Aziz is the Prime Minister's political secretary).

Under cross-examination, Mohd Said said now that he had this report, he did not think there was another. This line of questioning was put on hold while the second report was being traced.

To another question, he said Mohd Taib and B.K. Tan were arrested for being "imposters". He also said he did not remember if Mohd Taib was "used by Aziz Shamsuddin".

He had no further details as he said the matter had been handled by the Criminal Investigation Department.

Proceedings only went on for half a day today being a Friday. Judge Datuk S. Augustine Paul said not much could be done in the one hour after the lunch break.

When court was adjourned and before he was led out, Anwar said the reports in the local Press were biased.