

03 NOV 1998

Court-Anwar (Witness)

COURT TOLD OF 1992 PROBE ON ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Police conducted investigations into alleged sexual misbehaviour of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in 1992 under operation code-named "Solid Grip", retiring Police Special Branch Director Datuk Mohamed Said Awang told the High Court here today.

Mohamed Said said he met his deputy, Datuk Amir Junus, and another officer, ACP Mazlan Mohamed Zain, who briefed him on the operation at the VIP room of the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang at 10.30pm on Aug 10, last year.

The two officers briefed him on a letter alleging Anwar's sexual misbehaviour and told him that the letter was being sent to the Prime Minister.

Mohamed Said, who is on leave prior to retirement effective Nov 17, was the first witness in the trial of Anwar, 51, who faces four counts of corrupt practice relating to interference with police investigations.

Giving his evidence in English, he said after the briefing, he told the two officers to come to his office in the morning to discuss the matter.

The following day, they came to brief him further on this and he directed them to brief the Inspector-General of Police while he went to Anwar's office for a scheduled briefing on another matter.

Mohamed Said, who started giving evidence at 3.05pm, said he briefed Anwar on another matter as directed by Anwar, who was then acting Prime Minister.

"After the briefing, Anwar asked me to see him alone. I went to see Anwar alone and Anwar talked to me about a certain letter containing wild allegations against him and asked me to look into the matter. I told him I will look into the matter," he said.

"After meeting with Anwar, I went to see IGP and I briefed him on Anwar's request," he said.

He said the following day, at about 3pm in his office, he held a meeting with Amir and Mazlan where he was briefed on a letter written by a lady.

"I was briefed on the content of the letter and we discussed why the letter was written and other related matters regarding the letter," he said.

Mohamed Said said at that time he was told about the circulation of the letter but the letter was not widely circulated then.

At about 4.40pm on the same day, they went to see the IGP and briefed him on what they knew so far about the letter.

He told the court the IGP told them to make further inquiries to know more about the letter which was shown to him by the two officers earlier on the same day.

The letter dated Aug 5, 1997, addressed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, concerned allegations of Anwar's sexual misconduct.

When Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Abdul Gani Patail, who heads the prosecution, asked Mohamed Said who wrote the letter, one of Anwar's nine-member defence team, Gurbachan Singh objected.

The court allowed the objection but Abdul Gani rephrased his question: "According to the letter, who wrote the letter."

Mohamed Said: "The person who wrote the letter is Ummi Hafilda."

Abdul Gani: "From your investigation did you find who wrote the

letter."

Gurbachan: "Objection."

The court allowed the objection.

Earlier, in his opening statement, Abdul Gani told the court that the prosecution would adduce evidence beyond reasonable doubt that the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance had used his position for his own interest.

He said that issues resulting in the offences committed originated from a letter dated Aug 5, 1997 from Ummi Hafilda Ali to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad pertaining to Anwar's misconduct and the sworn statement by Azizan Abu Bakar, and a letter with the heading "Talqin Terbuka Untuk Anwar Ibrahim" of "An Open Talqin For Anwar Ibrahim". (The talqin is a recitation of the creed to the dead on interment).

Abdul Gani said that the prosecution would prove that Anwar had taken various steps to deny the content of the letter and the sworn statement by using the Special Branch.

He said that Anwar had met Special Branch Director Datuk Mohamed Said Awang and Special Branch Deputy Director II Datuk Amir Junus at his official residence and instructed them to obtain letters of denial from Ummi Hafilda and Azizan, dated Aug 18, 1997 and Aug 29, 1997 respectively.

"The letters purportedly clarified and denied the content of the first letter from Ummi Hafilda dated Aug 5, 1997 and Azizan's sworn confession," he said.

Earlier, the court rejected an application by Anwar's leading counsel, Raja Aziz Addruse to stay the proceeding pending the appeal against the court's dismissal of the defence's objection on the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance No 22, 1970.

Raja Aziz, in his application, said the court should stay the proceeding as they would like to appeal against Justice Augustine Paul's decision yesterday that the four corrupt practice charges against Anwar were valid.

Anwar has 14 days to appeal against the court ruling.

The counsel said the annulment of the ordinance by the Dewan Rakyat on Oct 22 was a procedural issue and it had to be decided if it was an abuse of power or not and the question must be settled before the trial begins.

Abdul Gani said that the court now had nothing to do with the issue as a ruling had been made.

At today's proceedings, Justice Augustine Paul also clarified that the court order disallowing the Bar Council from acting as observer in the case still stands.

Anwar was brought into the courtroom at 2.06pm and hugged his mother, Datin Che Yan Hamid, his wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, and his friend from Indonesia, Dr Adnan Buyung Nasution, of the International Commission of Jurists.

Earlier, the court allowed the application of C.V.Prabhakaran to hold a watching brief for four prosecution witnesses, Azmin Ali, Mohamed Azman Ali, Shamsidar Taharin and Halimatul Saadiah.

Hearing continues tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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