

17 DEC 1998

Court-Anwar (Conspiracy)

PROBE SHOWED NO CONSPIRACY TO TOPPLE ANWAR - OFFICER

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 17 (Bernama) -- Police probe did not show that there was a political conspiracy to topple Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, investigating officer SAC I Musa Hassan said today.

He said it instead showed that there existed a conspiracy by Anwar and other individuals to obstruct the process of justice, and by Anwar to "use the government machinery, that is the police, to protect himself."

Musa said this during re-examination by the prosecution at Anwar's corruption trial in the High Court.

The former deputy prime minister faces four charges of abusing his position by interfering in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

During cross-examination yesterday, Musa said the investigations covered all elements including the involvement of politicians to determine if there was a political conspiracy against Anwar.

The defence has alleged that Anwar, 51, is a victim of political conspiracy.

As Musa mentioned "conspiracy", Anwar raised his right hand and clenched his fist. He also turned behind and smiled at his relatives and others at the public gallery.

Justice Datuk S. Augustine Paul also smiled as Musa answered, saying: "What has to be proved by 55 witnesses, he has proved in three sentences."

The prosecution had said it might call that number of witnesses to prove its case.

Questioned why no statement was recorded from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Musa said it was because Ummi Hafilda Ali, the writer of a letter accusing Anwar of sexual misconduct, had merely mentioned that she was sending the letter to the prime minister.

As for Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, Musa said no statement was taken from him as his role in the case was minimal.

Ummi, he said, had only met Daim to facilitate the handing over of the letter to Dr Mahathir.

In the case of Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah and Inspector-General Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Nor, Musa said they did not play any role in the case.

Musa was also asked why he considered it as unusual the Special Branch's involvement in investigations into Ummi's letter, as well as an anonymous letter and a sworn statement by Azizan Abu Bakar both of which also contain allegations of Anwar's sexual misconduct.

He said it was because the SB normally was only involved in syndicated crime.

The SB's duties are to carry out surveillance and gather information for the CID to facilitate action to be taken, he said.

Asked on the failure to establish the writer of the anonymous letter, titled "Talqin Terbuka Untuk Anwar Ibrahim" (Last Rites for Anwar Ibrahim), Musa said this was because he was directed to close the case.

On the decision to charge Anwar under Section 2 of the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance, Musa said he had proposed it to the attorney-general but it was the latter who made the decision.

To a question on the book "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM", a book containing allegations against Anwar, Musa said it was originally investigated under Section 500 of the Penal Code (defamation) but later

became the subject matter of another case.

Musa also said that he closed investigations into the "Talqin" letter with the attorney-general's consent.

But investigations reopened when a probe began on the "50 Dalil" book in June, he said.

-- BERNAMA

NHD SK