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Court-Anwar (Recording)

THERE IS A RECORDING OF ANWAR'S CONVERSATION WITH AZIZAN - UMMI

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- There is a tape recording of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's conversation with a man he allegedly sodomised and it proves his sexual misdemeanour, the High Court was told today.

Anwar in the conversation urged Azizan Abu Bakar to deny all charges against him (Azizan), advertising executive Ummi Hafilda Ali said when testifying in Anwar's corruption trial.

"There was an incident when we managed to record the conversation between the accused and Azizan, in which the accused pleaded to Azizan...to deny all the charges," she said.

Ummi Hafilda, 31, is the writer of a letter alleging Anwar of committing adultery and sodomy.

The letter was sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad along with a sworn statement by Azizan in which he accused Anwar of sodomising him.

Anwar, the former deputy prime minister, faces four charges of abusing his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations of sexual abuse against him.

Ummi Hafilda said the tape was being kept by Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin, the prime minister's political secretary.

To defence lawyer Christopher Fernando's suggestion that she had persuaded Azizan to fabricate the allegation, Ummi Hafilda said: "Azizan's sworn statement was made with full realisation and a desire to repent".

Rejecting the fabrication charge, she told the lawyer: "This is the month of Ramadhan, Mr Fernando."

Her statement drew laughter from the public gallery.

Earlier, replying to another question by Fernando, Ummi Hafilda denied telling anyone that she had negotiated for Azizan to receive money and the former driver would be getting RM1 million.

There was also a tense moment when Fernando asked Ummi Hafilda about a conversation between her and Ziela Jalil, the second wife of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid, which allegedly took place in the ladies' toilet at the court.

Asked the lawyer: "In a ladies' toilet here, did Ziela Jalil tell you, after Azizan stated three times that Datuk Seri Anwar did not sodomise him, this: You are cause of all this, you created the story, now Azizan is in trouble."

Denying that was so, Ummi Afilda said there was no occasion during her two months' attendance in court when she had met Zeila in the toilet.

"And I am surprised how Mr Fernando could be at the ladies' toilet," she said, prompting others to laugh.

"You'll be surprised," replied the lawyer while denying that he had been in the toilet.

Justice S. Augustine Paul then ordered Fernando to prove his claim.

Ummi Hafilda also denied Fernando's suggestion that she accused Shamsidar of having an affair with Anwar because she wanted her brother to divorce Shamsidar.

But that was what even her father had said before adopting a different view of late, she told the court.

Ummi Hafilda also denied that she was paid a large sum for writing the letter alleging Anwar of sexual misconduct.

She also denied that she wrote the letter to prevent Anwar from

becoming the prime minister.

"That's not my work, to prevent the accused from becoming prime minister, that's the work of the police and the court," she said.

The court did not decide who became the prime minister, interjected the judge.

But it was the court that would decide whether Anwar was guilty or not, she responded.

Ummi Hafilda also rejected Fernando's suggestion that she had helped prepare Azizan's sworn statement with the knowledge of her family.

Replying to another defence counsel Gurbachan Singh, Ummi Hafilda said she had never witnessed Anwar and Shamsidar in any sexual act, or Anwar in a homosexual act with anyone.

To another question, she said she came to know Zeila four years ago through her brother Azwan.

She had gone abroad with Zeila and her husband Megat Junid in 1992, said Ummi Hafilda.

She also made a trip to London with her business partner Datuk Sng Chee Hua, who knows Zeila, a few days before this year's Umno general assembly.

Sng's family came along, said Ummi Hafilda, adding that she would be engaged in business with Sng's wife Susan at the end of the year or early next year.

-- BERNAMA

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