

04 NOV 1998

Court-Anwar (Mahathir)

WITNESS: I PASSED SWORN STATEMENT TO PRIME MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was given the original copies of the sworn statements by Ummi Hafilda Ali and Azizan Abu Bakar regarding the retraction of the allegations of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sexual misconduct, the High Court here heard today.

Mohamed Said Awang, the outgoing Special Branch Director, said he passed the sworn statements together with his covering letter to the prime minister when he met Dr Mahathir on his own accord at the Prime Minister's office at 5.30pm on Aug 20 last year.

He was giving evidence at the trial of Anwar, 51, the former deputy prime minister, on four charges of corrupt practice by abusing his position to interfere in police investigations.

The sworn statements by Ummi Hafilda, the sister of Anwar's former private secretary at the Finance Ministry, and Azizan Abu Bakar, Anwar's former personal driver, were tendered in court for identification today.

When asked by senior deputy public prosecutor Datuk Abdul Gani Patail whether the prime minister read the documents, Mohamed Said said: "Not in front of me".

He said that if he was not mistaken, he did pass the letter entitled, "Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri" (Regarding the Deputy Prime Minister's Misconduct), to Dr Mahathir together with the sworn statements.

Mohamed Said said he then went to Anwar's residence at 10pm the same day. He was not sure whether it was on his own accord but he went with his deputy, Datuk Amir Junus.

He said he met Anwar and informed him that he had already sent the letter to the prime minister.

Asked about Anwar's response, Mohamed Said said he could not remember.

He said he told Anwar that he had passed the letters to Dr Mahathir as he thought that the prime minister should be informed about the matter.

Under cross-examination by defence counsel Christopher Fernando, Mohamed Said told the court that he might have told Anwar that he did not believe the allegations against the former finance minister.

He agreed that that it was on that basis and in that context that Anwar requested him to investigate further.

He said Anwar told him to investigate the allegations deeply and as an experienced police officer, the investigation involved all aspects.

The hearing adjourned at 4.06pm but Anwar left the court 30 minutes later after discussion with his lawyers.

The hearing continues tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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