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Foreigners started to work for Anwar in late 80s

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The foreigners described by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday as penulis upahan (mercenary writers), employed by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, started working for their respective organisations in the late 80s.

Munawar Anees, who was found guilty of allowing himself to be sodomised by Anwar, was employed by Berita Publishing Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd, on Nov 15, 1989.

Munawar, Anwar's former speech writer, was appointed research and development manager at Berita Publishing Sdn Bhd.

Another two - Dr Ziauddin Sardar and Merryll Wyn Davies - were employed by TV3 on contract basis for research and consultancy services.

The contract was between TV3 and a British-based company representing the two - ISF Productions Ltd.

Ziauddin is a British citizen of Pakistani origin while Davies is British.

Sources said besides working for Berita Publishing, Munawar was also known to have provided advice and writing services to Anwar.

He was paid RM48,000 a year and was given a company car.

The sources were commenting on a report in the New Straits Times yesterday in which Dr Mahathir had said that Anwar had forced companies to hire his cronies and pay them exorbitant salaries.

Citing an example, Dr Mahathir said Anwar forced the NSTP to hire Munawar.

The sources said that Munawar resigned on Nov 13, 1995, after he was found to have been absent from work.

In the following year, on Aug 12, he suddenly appeared as a consultant to Realmild Sdn Bhd, a holding company of Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd, with an annual salary of RM60,000 and was given a company car.

The sources said he worked for Realmild with job specifications in his contract stating that his work was related to the publishing industry.

At the time he was charged for sodomy, he was an employee of Realmild.

Meanwhile, Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Berhad managing director Datuk Zahari Omar said Ziauddin and Davies, "friends" of Anwar, were paid between STG60,000 (RM375,000) and STG80,000 for each year of their contract with TV3.

Ziauddin was in TV3 from August 1989 to June 15, 1995, while Davies worked from August 1989 to June 14, last year, but with a short break in between.

Zahari said both of them announced the fact that they were "very close" to Anwar to many TV3 staff while they were with the company.

Another person who used to do Press liaison for Anwar was former Star journalist N.V. Raman. He was working overseas for several years but returned in 1993 to help in the Anwar machinery.

The sources said Raman was on the payroll of a major Chinese-controlled conglomerate as international director but most of his work was for the former Deputy Prime Minister.

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