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Court-Anwar (Megat)

MINISTER ADMITTED WIFE INVOLVED IN CONSPIRACY - ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob had admitted that his wife Ziela Jalil was involved in a conspiracy to topple Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the High Court heard today.

Anwar said the Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs made the admission when the two of them discussed about the alleged conspiracy.

"Datuk Seri Megat stressed that he was not involved in the conspiracy at all and that it was his wife Ziela who was involved," said Anwar.

The 52-year-old former deputy premier was replying to his counsel Christopher Fernando on the 65th day of his sodomy trial.

He is being jointly tried with his adopted brother, Sukma, 38, on a charge of sodomising his former family driver, Azizan Abu Bakar, 39, at Sukma's apartment in Tivoli Villa, Bangsar, here at 7.45pm on an unspecified night between January and March 1993.

Sukma, a businessman, faces another charge of abetting Anwar to sodomise Azizan at the same place and time.

Anwar said he and Megat Junid had a quarrel after the admission and the minister gave him Zeila's telephone number to enable him to confirm the matter.

"But according to Datuk Seri Megat Junid, the real spoiler was Ummi Hafilda (Ali) and he confirmed this in a letter he wrote to me," he said.

Anwar had informed the court earlier about the letter dated Sept 10, 1977 but the court refused to admit it as it was a copy.

Anwar said the original was in one of six boxes containing documents. (It had been reported that the boxes are being kept abroad.)

Anwar said he did not have any problems with Megat Junid and believed it was the minister who had problems with him based on a report he had sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Megat Junid was then the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and a close confidant of Dr Mahathir.

Umni Hafilda is the writer of a letter to Dr Mahathir accusing Anwar of sexual misconduct.

Anwar was dismissed from the Cabinet on Sept 2 last year and expelled from Umno the following day.

Anwar said he had discussed with Megat Junid about a corruption charge against Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz as it involved the allocation of shares to Megat Junid's son.

He said Megat Junid was unhappy over the actions he planned to take with regard to the matter.

The minister then resorted to a dangerous action which he mentioned in a letter to Dr Mahathir with a copy sent to Anwar, said the former deputy premier.

"I was shocked when I got a letter from Datuk Seri Megat Junid to the Prime Minister with a copy to me, which described a conspiracy that was being carried out by his lawyer with the attorney-general that also involved the judiciary,"

Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka, however, did not allow the letter dated Sept 21, 1994 to be admitted on the ground that it was irrelevant, although Fernando said the letter was important to prove conspiracy.

The judge also did not allow Anwar to read out the letter in court.

Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah, who is leading the prosecution team, objected to the letter being admitted saying it had no

relevance to the case.

He said counsel could not use a document containing accusations against someone involving the attorney-general as it was done before.

Anwar said he met Dr Mahathir to tell him that Megat Junid's action to conspire with the attorney-general to reduce the charges against Rafidah and influence the judge was a serious wrongdoing that would tarnish the image and integrity of the Attorney-General's Chambers and the judiciary.

Anwar said Dr Mahathir, however, did not show any interest in the matter.

He said he also made certain people angry when he brought up the issue at the Asian Law Minister Conference and when replying to a Malaysian student's question while in London.

Anwar then told the judge that he could not continue with his testimony as he had a headache.

Arifin had earlier told Anwar to inform the court if he was unwell.

The judge said he was informed that Anwar would undergo a medical examination tomorrow afternoon.

Hearing continues tomorrow.

--BERNAMA

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