

09 MAR 1999

Court-Anwar (Letter)

UMMI CONFESSED THAT MEGAT JUNID DRAFTED LETTER- AZMIN

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- Mohd Azmin Ali, former private secretary to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, told the High Court here today that his sister Ummi Hafilda had confessed to him that Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob (Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs) had drafted the letter "In the matter of the Sexual Misconduct of the Deputy Prime Minister."

He said this when asked by defence counsel Christopher Fernando whether Ummi had told him as to who had written the letter.

Earlier Justice Datuk S. Augustine Paul allowed counsel to adduce evidence from Azmin about the writer of the letter.

The letter dated Aug 5, 1997 was sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad together with a special report and a sworn statement from Azizan Abu Bakar, former driver to Anwar's wife.

Anwar, 51, former deputy prime minister and former finance minister, faces four counts of corrupt practice charges of allegedly abusing his position as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister to interfere in police investigations into the allegation of sexual misconduct against him, to avoid embarrassment.

He is charged under Section 2 (1) of Emergency Ordinance No. 22 (Essential Powers) 1970 which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment or RM20,000 fine or both upon conviction.

Azmin, the 14th defence witness in the trial which entered its 68th day today, said his sister informed him of this at the house of their elder brother on June 26 last year.

He said Ummi confessed to him it was not she who had written the letter alleging sexual misconduct by the deputy prime minister.

"I had to ask her again even though she had confessed that she had not written the letter because I know her to always lie when she speaks."

"I asked Ummi as to why she was willing to slander me, my family and Saudara Anwar when she knew that the charges were baseless and can ruin the family."

Fernando: Did Ummi inform you as to who wrote the letter?

Azmin: She told me that if proposed to take legal action I should do so against Megat Junid as it was he who was behind the letter.

He said that Ummi told him that her role was to fabricate evidence against Anwar and that she had been promised money and projects for doing so.

Azmin also said that Ummi again confessed to him that she did not write the letter during their meeting at the office of businessman Datuk Sng Chee Hua here. Sng is the Member of Parliament for Julau in Sarawak.

"Ummi also mentioned to me that if I did not believe her confession then I can refer to her sworn statement that she had made several days before she met me," said Azmin of their meeting at 1.20pm on June 30, 1998 at the office of Sng.

The Court then adjourned for a while.

Azmin will continue with his testimony when the court resumes sitting.

-- BERNAMA

NHD AHH AAM