

Documents with Muhyiddin's signatures as exhibits in UPSR leak trial
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The Kuala Kangsar Sessions court today, allowed two documents with Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's signatures to be admitted as exhibits in the trial of Tamil school teacher, P. Uma Mageswari, 28, in connection with last year's leaked UPSR examination papers.

Judge Hassan Bakri agreed with the prosecution that the presence of Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, as a witness in the trial is not necessary to verify the documents despite Uma's counsel, P. Kula Segaran arguing otherwise.

Earlier, Kula said Muhyiddin's presence, as a maker of the document, was necessary under Section 2B of the Official Secrets Act 1972 (OSA).

The Ipoh Barat MP said in the UPSR leak case heard in the Seremban session court, it was confirmed that the document or "watakah" produced by the prosecution was not physically signed by Muhyiddin but merely a rubber stamp.

"It is of paramount importance under OSA, it must be his (Muhyiddin's) signature. The person who signed must verify."

Deputy public prosecutor Yusaini Amer Abdul Karim, however disagreed, saying that the 10th witness, Nor Rasid Mohd Ngatikon, an Examinations Syndicate assistant director who gave testimony today, was the maker, who was responsible for the document.

"The court cannot say this document is not original," he said.

Counsel Augustine Anthony stood up at this juncture to argue that Norashid's role in preparing the document was administrative at most.

"Ultimately, the person who decides the contents of the document is the person who puts his signature. That person is the maker, the person with mind to direct the document," he said.

Yusaini further argued, saying that verifying the document and the attestation of the signature were two different matters.

He asked for the documents to be presented as exhibits and leave the court to decide whether it could be admissible as evidence at the end of the prosecution's case.

The judge then ordered for the documents, dated 23 August 2011 and 17 September 2013 to be marked as exhibits.

The trial will continue on August 12, with the cross examination of the 11th witness,

Dr Na'imah Ishak, who was then the Examinations Syndicate director.

Uma, from from SJKT Keruh in Pengkalan Hulu, was charged under OSA for being in possession of several pages of the Science paper in her Samsung Ace smartphone.

She and her colleague, K. Anparasu, 50, were charged in November last year, under Section 8(1)(c)(iii) of the OSA, which provides a jail term of between one and seven years.

Anparasu was slapped with three charges – being in possession of several pages of the Mathematics 1 and 2 and Science papers in his Samsung Trend smartphone.

They allegedly committed the offence between September 9 and 10 during the leak of several UPSR question papers. Both pleaded not guilty and their trials are ongoing.

In April, the Seremban Sessions court freed two teachers without their defence being called.

Judge Jagjit Singh in the case reportedly said the failure to call Muhyiddin as a witness resulted in a serious flaw in the prosecution's case. – June 25, 2015.

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