

## **Karpal: Lawyer wrote part of judgment for civil suit**

23 October, 2007

DATUK V. K. Lingam, accused of brokering judicial appointments in a controversial video clip, has also helped a judge write part of a judgment for a prominent case, an opposition member claimed yesterday. Karpal Singh (DAP-Bukit Gelugor) said Lingam had written part of the judgment for the civil suit which corporate tycoon Tan Sri Vincent Tan had taken against the late journalist MGG Pillai.

"He (Lingam) wrote part of the judgment for Mokhtar Sidin. I said this at the Commonwealth Law Conference in 1999.

"But they did not take action against me. That judge did not have the guts to take action against me. They know what I said is true," he said during the debate on Budget 2008.

Karpal said Lingam lacked integrity and credibility, alluding to the fact that he did not bother to deny his presence in the video clip.

Karpal said the fuss over the authenticity of the video was just excuses, adding he sympathised with the three-man panel headed by former chief judge of Malaya Tan Sri Haidar Mohamed Noor to investigate the video clip.

The other members are retired court of appeal judge Datuk Mahadev Shanker and social activist Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye.

"With days to go (before their deadline), they have not made any progress," he said.

Karpal also took a swipe at Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor who was mentioned in the video.

"Why hasn't he said anything? Why does he keep quiet? His silence condemns him."

The silence of the judge purportedly to have been speaking to Lingam on the video was also criticised by the MP.

Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang interjected at this juncture and read out to the house the number of written judgment by the present and previous chief justices.

Taking the cue, Karpal claimed the rot within the judiciary originated during the judicial crisis in 1988 when Lord President Tun Salleh Abbas was sacked.

Earlier, touching on the subject of manners, Karpal irked Datuk Badruddin Amiruldin (BN-Jerai) when he remarked that there was little hope of seeing courtesy and good manners in the house.

"The Jerai MP is notorious for using foul language. The Kinabatangan member (Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin) is no better," he said, referring to a foul word uttered by Badruddin during a sitting.

An angry Badruddin shouted back at Karpal. "You are no better. Calling us (BN MPs) animals... you insult people. Now you are sitting in a wheel chair. God has punished you."

Unfazed, Karpal said his wheelchair "status" was temporary and that Badruddin should not panic when his antics in the house was revealed.

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