

FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

First Session

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Complaint against Ms Raeesah Khan for Untruth Spoken in Parliament

Parl. 13 of 2022

Presented to Parliament on

10 February 2022

PART B

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

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COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2021

11.00 am

PRESENT:

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker (*Chairman*)

Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Mr Desmond Lee
Ms Rahayu Mahzam
Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai
Mr Don Wee
Mr Zaqy Mohamad

[Mr Speaker in the Chair]

[1] **The Chairman:** I call the meeting to order. Serjeant-at-arms, please invite the first witness to the witness table.

Ms Loh Pei Ying was examined on affirmation.

[2] **The Chairman:** Please take a seat, Ms Loh. For the record, please state your name, your occupation and the positions you hold.

[3] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** My name is Loh Pei Ying, I am the head and co-founder of a datavis and editorial studio based in Singapore called Kontinentalist. In the Workers' Party, I'm a cadre member and, prior to her resignation, I was the Secretarial Assistant to Ms Raeesah Khan.

[4] **The Chairman:** Thank you. The evidence you will be giving today before the Committee will be taken on oath or affirmation, and if you also desire, you can also take an affirmation. Clerk, please administer the oath.

(The witness made an affirmation.)

[5] **The Chairman:** Please be seated. The Committee of Privileges is looking into the complaint made by the Leader of the House, Ms Indranee Rajah, against former Member of Sengkang GRC, Ms Raeesah Khan, for a breach of privilege. Thank you very much again for attending today's hearing to give evidence before the Committee and to answer the questions which Members of the Committee would like to put to you.

[6] You have taken a solemn obligation to answer our questions truthfully, and you are under oath or affirmation. If you refuse to answer our questions directly or attempt to mislead

the Committee, such behaviour will be an offence and in contempt of this Committee. I will now call on Minister Edwin Tong to raise his questions.

[7] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Good morning, Ms Loh.

[8] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Good morning.

[9] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you very much for coming to assist with the Committee of Privileges' proceedings. As you have heard from the Chairman, Ms Khan is facing an inquiry into some untruths that were spoken in Parliament and also a failure to substantiate those untruths. That's the substance of the Leader's complaint which this Committee of Privileges is looking into.

[10] Ms Khan, in Parliament, had admitted to those untruths. This Committee of Privileges, however, needs to understand the circumstances in which those untruths came to be spoken, the statements came to be made in Parliament, and one of our tasks is to assess the context to determine the culpability of Ms Khan, because one of the things we have to do is to make findings which are factual and also make recommendations as to the appropriate sanctions. So, I'll be asking you questions in that context, to elicit from you the background circumstances and the context which led up to the various statements being made.

[11] Where relevant, I will also ask you to expand on some of the questions and the answers that you give to help us to understand the context as well. And, also, if there are other people who might be able to assist the Committee in relation to the questions that I raise with you, please do inform us.

[12] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Noted.

[13] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. Ms Loh, you mentioned earlier that you, until her resignation, was the Secretarial Assistant to Ms Khan. That would have been since July 2020, correct?

[14] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[15] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Prior to that, you were also Secretarial Assistant to Mr Pritam Singh, would that be right?

[16] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's correct.

[17] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's for a period of about three years from March 2013 to January 2016.

[18] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[19] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What led you to step down from that role in January 2016?

[20] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Just general fatigue, I was quite tired.

[21] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. You are presently the head and co-founder of Kontinentalist?

[22] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[23] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you're also on its editorial team?

[24] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I am.

[25] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You were also previously freelance editor of Trip.com?

[26] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Very, very briefly, yes.

[27] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And for a period, you were also a curatorial and research assistant at the ACM?

[28] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[29] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In the context of your role as a Secretarial Assistant, which I will call SA for short.

[30] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[31] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you have played this role for several years with different Members of Parliament. Can you give us a broad description of your duties? What do you do?

[32] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** On both instances to both Mr Pritam Singh and Ms Raeesah Khan, my role as a secretarial assistant was confined quite strictly to just organising their Meet-The-People Session, and that includes helping to roster volunteers for the Meet-The-People Session and also helped to draft letters that will be sent to various agencies.

[33] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In particular to Ms Khan, for the past one year or so, can you describe this role in more detail?

[34] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It's exactly what I've described. I helped her roster volunteers to be present at the Meet-The-People Session and I also helped to prepare the letters that would be sent to various Government agencies, and that includes verifying factual information, occasionally speaking to residents to confirm details, et cetera.

[35] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Besides this, does Ms Khan discuss matters with you pertaining to the Workers' Party?

[36] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, she does.

[37] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give us an idea of what those matters might be?

[38] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Time to time, Ms Khan will share with me, for example, on occasion if she needs my assistance on some speeches, she might ask me to help take a look or help with some research matters and also just sort of miscellaneous Party affairs like if there is a meeting, et cetera.

[39] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would regard that as part of your duties as an SA as well?

[40] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not quite. I see it as my capacity as a Member of the Workers' Party and as a volunteer of the Workers' Party.

[41] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, presumably, as a cadre member as well?

[42] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[43] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan made a number of speeches and also asked a couple of Parliamentary Questions (PQs) and raised supplementary questions in Parliament. You would be familiar with some of them? She would have discussed it with you?

[44] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Only some. Generally, from my understanding, Ms Khan works on all of her PQs and her speeches on her own.

[45] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. When she does discuss her speeches and PQs with you, give me a sense of what the nature of those discussions would be.

[46] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It's just to have another set of eyes to look over her speech to make sure that, I guess, the speech is sound and, sometimes, if she has some research materials that she wants a second person to verify, confirm facts and figures that are out there for public consumption, and ensuring that the speech reads clearly and is easy to understand.

[47] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And also accurately conveys the points that the speech intends to make?

[48] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[49] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What about after speeches are made or PQs are asked in Parliament? Is there a review?

[50] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, not with me.

[51] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is there a discussion as to what are the learning points?

[52] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not with me.

[53] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not with you. Are you aware if these discussions are held with anybody in the Workers' Party?

[54] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I only have second-hand information of what's been told to me and I believe that the Members of Parliament (MPs) review, sometimes, after a session.

- [55] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do the MPs review before the speeches are made?
- [56] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I believe the MPs do, sort of, share speeches with each other prior to making them in Parliament and give each other comments, yes.
- [57] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You are familiar with a statement made by an ex-Member of Parliament from the Workers' Party, Mr Daniel Goh, in relation to his suggestion or his own knowledge that MPs usually share speeches and there is a consensus reached on the speeches? Would that be your understanding as well?
- [58] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't confirm this because I'm not part of that process. So, I don't know to what degree they confirm on the speeches.
- [59] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand.
- [60] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** But I do know that they sort of review it together.
- [61] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm just asking you from the perspective of your own personal knowledge. So, I'm not asking you to second-guess what other people might or might not have done. But from what you know, is that process followed?
- [62] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [63] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the process that Mr Goh described where there is a consensus prior to a speech being delivered, that would be followed?
- [64] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [65] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And are you aware if anyone else, outside of Members of Parliament, are involved in the process? For example, there will be speechwriters assisting each of the Members of Parliament?
- [66] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** To my knowledge, Mr Pritam Singh has two Legislative Assistants which he was entitled to hire after being appointed as Leader of the Opposition and, to my knowledge, they are the only two that are involved. I don't know anyone else.
- [67] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You don't know of anyone else?
- [68] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [69] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But there could be?
- [70] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know.
- [71] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In the context of the speeches that you do assist Ms Khan with, can you give me an idea as to what that process is? How is that done?
- [72] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Usually, she's already done with the speech and it's either the day before or the morning of that she asked me to just take a quick look.

[73] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And how are those comments conveyed to Ms Khan?

[74] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Over WhatsApp, I will just give her my thoughts.

[75] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And do you get to see the various iterations of the speech, and do you give your view on how the drafts are turned around?

[76] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I don't.

[77] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You don't?

[78] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[79] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Besides speeches made in Parliament, do you also assist Ms Khan with speeches made outside of Parliament, say, at events or functions?

[80] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I don't. I don't. But I occasionally assist her with – again, she's already drafted, for example, like a social media post and I just help to review it and ensure that, again, it's easy to understand, grammar is correct, et cetera.

[81] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, social media on Facebook, Instagram or any of these other channels?

[82] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[83] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. So, you would, generally, through these touchpoints, be broadly familiar with the kind of approach that Ms Khan takes, the views that she holds, the approach that she would take in conveying her views both in Parliament as well as on social media channels? Would it be fair to say that?

[84] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I guess. I can't really say that I would be 100% cognisant of her intentions.

[85] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course. You would be familiar that on 3 August, Ms Khan made a speech?

[86] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[87] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That was in the context of a Motion that was moved by the Workers' Party. Ms He Ting Ru and Mr Leon Perera were the movers of the Motion.

[88] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes

[89] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And before we get to the portions of the speech that the Leader of the House had raised, you will remember that two other points Ms Khan made were on female genitalia mutilation and on Muslim marriages?

[90] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[91] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you familiar with those topics and did she discuss them with you?

[92] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not at all. She did not discuss those with me.

[93] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you are not familiar with how it was drafted or who drafted it?

[94] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, that particular speech, I had no involvement in.

[95] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you know who had involvement in it?

[96] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No. I do not.

[97] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You have no idea?

[98] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[99] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It was made without your knowledge or did you know that such a speech would be made?

[100] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No. I did not know that such a speech would be made.

[101] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you know that such a Motion was being moved?

[102] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I was aware that the Party was moving a Motion.

[103] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And did you not discuss with Ms Khan whether she would be making a speech on the Motion?

[104] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No. I did not discuss with her.

[105] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she didn't raise that with you either?

[106] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[107] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Are you familiar with anyone who might have assisted Ms Khan in relation to that speech?

[108] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[109] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The "no" means you're not familiar or no one else assisted her with that speech?

[110] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I'm not familiar.

[111] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, there might have been someone but you just don't know?

[112] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[113] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What about after the speech was made? Were you aware of any discussions that Ms Khan might have had with anyone after the speech was made?

[114] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I have information on that.

[115] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, let's take it step by step. Did she discuss the speech with you after it was made?

[116] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. She did. Mm—

[117] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us the substance of the discussion – sorry, I'm sorry to interrupt – starting with when that took place, the reference point being that the speech was made on 3 August?

[118] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I first came to learn that she had made the speech at midnight on 3 August itself. I was late to check my phone messages and I saw, I guess, the discussion and the commotion happening following the news. Thereafter, I gave her my thoughts on the matter. And I know that she had also discussed with Mr Pritam Singh on the matter.

[119] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 3 August itself?

[120] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I believe so, yes.

[121] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. What thoughts did you give to Ms Khan on 3 August?

[122] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** At the time, I had also the same information as the public. I had the understanding that she had accompanied this survivor to the Police station and I advised her that because it's important to protect the survivor's confidentiality, that she should not share information about the victim's identity because I didn't think that was the right thing to do.

[123] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. By the time you spoke with her, had you seen the speech?

[124] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not in full.

[125] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'd like to show you an extract of the speech, so that we are all on the same page.

[126] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[127] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** May I, Mr Chairman, have the Clerk hand out a copy of the extract of the speech made by Ms Khan on 3 August?

[128] **The Chairman:** Yes, please. Go ahead. [*Singapore Parl Debates; Vol 95, Issue No 36, Sitting of 3 August 2021.*]

[129] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Chairman, as a matter of housekeeping, there might be several documents that we tender. So, can I suggest that, for identification purposes, we mark them, and perhaps we mark them sequentially? We call them COP 1, 2, 3 and so on?

[130] **The Chairman:** Yes, we can do that for easier reference.

[131] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Thank you.

[132] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh, the opening page is the starting point of the Motion being moved by Ms He Ting Ru. If you would just look at the bottom right-hand corner, you will see the page numbers. Could I please refer you to page 90? Do you see that? That's the start of Ms Khan's speech. She raises various points about sexual violence in the fourth paragraph, sexual assault cases, talking about what happened in the case of a South Korean female air force officer. And over the page, I would like you to focus on the paragraph which starts with "In my line of work" Do you see that?

[133] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[134] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, she says:

In my line of work, I've accompanied people to Police stations to make reports on sexual violence. It's already incredibly difficult for survivors to feel comfortable making a report in the first place but, sometimes, the responses from those called to protect us can be disheartening. Three years ago, I accompanied a 25-year-old survivor to make a Police report against a rape that was committed against her. She came out crying. The Police officer had allegedly made comments about her dressing and the fact that she was drinking.

[135] This would have been one of the paragraphs that you had discussed with her in your call on 3 August, correct?

[136] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I did not call her on 3 August.

[137] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How did you discuss this with her then?

[138] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** On WhatsApp.

[139] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On WhatsApp. So, the nature of the discussions that you had with her on WhatsApp would have centred on this paragraph, amongst others?

[140] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[141] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You told us that you said to her that it is important to ensure that the confidentiality of the individual be protected?

[142] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[143] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was that the only point you made to her?

[144] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That was the primary point.

[145] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you still have those WhatsApp messages and exchanges with Ms Khan?

[146] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I do.

[147] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Over the course of this session, to the extent relevant, and Mr Chairman will determine that, I will make a request for the production of some documents. So, in relation to this series of WhatsApp chats, I would like to make a request that you produce them to the Committee of Privileges.

[148] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[149] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. At that point in time, did you ask Ms Khan whether this occasion actually happened?

[150] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, because I also believed that it was true.

[151] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did she share with you that she was not able to substantiate this account?

[152] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I had what information she shared with Parliament, which is that she cannot contact the survivor anymore.

[153] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, as of 3 August, what you knew was what was said in Parliament?

[154] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[155] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Over the course of your subsequent discussions with her, did that view change?

[156] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't understand what you mean.

[157] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The 3 August midnight was when you first had an exchange of messages with Ms Khan over this speech?

[158] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[159] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you are telling us that, as of that time, your state of knowledge was exactly as what she had said in Parliament. So, you only knew the material that was public?

[160] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[161] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you also would have engaged in subsequent discussions with her, correct?

[162] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. Correct.

[163] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, at any point thereafter, did your view change? Did you come to learn that this fact or this anecdote was not true?

[164] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I did.

[165] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At what stage did you learn that?

[166] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** On 7 August, in the evening, Ms Raeesah Khan had WhatsApped me and another Party colleague to say that she had done something bad. And then, we had hopped on a Zoom call to discuss this and that's when she told me of the truth.

[167] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you briefly describe the tenor of that WhatsApp discussion that you had with her on 7 August?

[168] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It sounded serious and I was willing to listen to her and also show my concern for her as both her friend and as a Party colleague, yes.

[169] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course. Can you give us the gist of the messages that you exchanged with her on 7 August?

[170] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It was really short. She just said that she had done something bad and I asked her what it was. And then, at that point of time, she did say that there were only two people who knew of what this was and she said her husband and Mr Pritam Singh.

[171] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You said that, thereafter, you hopped onto a Zoom discussion?

[172] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[173] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us who was on the Zoom discussion?

[174] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Myself and Mr Yudhishthra Nathan.

[175] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** With Ms Khan?

[176] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[177] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Who is Mr Yudhishthra Nathan?

[178] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** He's also a cadre member of the Workers' Party.

[179] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us a little bit more about Mr Nathan?

[180] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** What more do you want to know?

[181] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I mean, was he a secretarial assistant as well?

[182] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** To my knowledge, he didn't hold any legislative or secretarial assistant post. But he was, briefly, I think, a member of the Workers' Party Youth Wing, a part of the Executive Committee of the Workers' Party Youth Wing.

[183] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, to your knowledge, what was his role in the context of this speech?

[184] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Just as a friend.

[185] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, in other words, not having been involved initially in the speech, but, subsequently, given that there was a realisation that there was problem – in your words, a serious problem – he got involved?

[186] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Maybe I can add some points to clarify this. Myself, Mr Nathan and Ms Khan, we have a WhatsApp group together where we often just discuss things in general, yes.

[187] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And would Mr Nathan be one where Ms Khan would bounce ideas off and discuss generally?

[188] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Generally, yes.

[189] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, would it include speeches, approaches, political points, strategy and so on?

[190] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, but not this particular speech, not prior to her making the speech.

[191] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not prior. But certainly after?

[192] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[193] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There would have been quite an active discussion subsequent to the speech, would you say?

[194] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[195] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In the days after 3 August?

[196] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[197] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that culminated in 7 August and you said there was a Zoom discussion?

[198] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[199] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give us a gist of the Zoom discussion?

[200] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She told us that she had lied because she was once a victim or survivor herself of sexual assault. She relayed to us that this had happened when she was overseas when she was 18 and that she had sought, I guess, to heal from this episode by attending support groups and that's when she learned of this anecdote. And she told us that she could not share the circumstances of her learning of this anecdote because she also did not want

to reveal that she was a member of the support group and, therefore, also that she's a victim of sexual assault.

[201] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But she made clear to yourself and Mr Nathan that the anecdote was false?

[202] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, that's right.

[203] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that she was not able to substantiate it?

[204] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[205] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was your reaction?

[206] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I was shocked, of course, and very disappointed, yes.

[207] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What did you advise her to do?

[208] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** At that point of time, my primary points to her were as a friend. I did not advise her to take any particular course of action. I just listened and maintained her confidentiality because she was a survivor of a sexual assault.

[209] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There are a couple of issues which would have been germane at that point in time, looking at it from your perspective and just putting together the evidence that you have just given us. You have come to learn of it for the first time.

[210] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[211] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You obviously want to protect someone whom you regard not just as a Member of Parliament and a fellow Party member, but also a friend, as you say, and you, therefore, are keen to ensure that she is also protected, given her own experience. I assume that's one perspective that you had that day.

[212] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** My desire to so-call protect her was only to protect her confidentiality as a victim of sexual assault, not in any other way.

[213] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you concerned that a statement had been made in Parliament that was not true?

[214] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I was concerned.

[215] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And did you give her any views on that?

[216] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I didn't feel a need to, because, as I said, at that point of time when she told me, I also had knowledge that our Party leader, Pritam Singh, already knew, and it didn't feel like I needed to take any further action on that.

[217] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'll come to that in a moment. But would you be able to describe Mr Nathan's reaction on this Zoom discussion? First of all, let me back up a little

bit. You said there was a group chat. So, can you describe Mr Nathan's responses on this group chat in relation to the discovery that what was said on 3 August was not true?

[218] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** He had similar views to me, I believe. I can't recall the exact exchange because, as you said, it was quite animated and active.

[219] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Animated on the WhatsApp chat?

[220] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I mean, I will be honest, it was animated. We, obviously, felt bad for her that she was questioned subsequently, and we wanted to comfort her to say that she had answered to her knowledge what she could in Parliament and that there was no need to further fret on the matter.

[221] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you said "questioned subsequently", you mean on 3 August itself?

[222] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, on 3 August.

[223] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because you're probably referring to a subsequent occasion when Minister of State Desmond Lee stood up to seek a clarification?

[224] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[225] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And subsequently, I think Ms Khan herself stood up to make a clarification?

[226] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[227] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You're referring to those occasions?

[228] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[229] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We'll come to the subsequent discussions after 3 August, page one, so that we get the timeline right. I just want to make sure that our lines don't cross. This WhatsApp chat group, could you also produce it to the Committee of Privileges, please, at least in relation to the discussions on the 3 August speech and any discussions thereafter that you might have arising from this?

[230] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Admittedly, I'm not fully comfortable doing so because it's a chat for friends. That is what concerns me; it's like anecdotes about my family and all that there, too.

[231] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. So, to the extent that there are these personal anecdotes on your family, I think we should exclude those.

[232] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[233] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I'm just asking you to give us the chats and discussions in relation to what happened on 3 August, your discussions on that and anything else that may have developed from that thereafter.

[234] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[235] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, thank you. At the Zoom session, what was Mr Nathan's reaction?

[236] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think he was just as shocked as me.

[237] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What did he say?

[238] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't recall exactly.

[239] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give us a gist of what he said?

[240] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think it was, again, similar to what I said, which is, our primary concern was to just console her, listen and that was primarily it. We didn't advise her on any particular course of action.

[241] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, as of the Zoom discussion on 7 August, both of you had known that Mr Pritam Singh was aware that what Ms Khan said on 3 August was false?

[242] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** He knew that an untruth had been said but I think he only knew the full facts after 7 August because Ms Khan had shared that she had a meeting with him on, I believe, 8 August.

[243] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Just hold on to that timeline for a moment. I just want to keep to 7 August for the time being. How did you and Mr Nathan know as of 7 August that Mr Singh was aware that there were untruths spoken by Ms Khan on 3 August?

[244] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I believe so from what Ms Khan had shared with me. In the WhatsApp group, before she told the whole thing, I asked who knows, and she said, "Only my husband and Mr Pritam Singh" – not my husband, her husband. And then on the Zoom call, she said, I believe that she told him over the phone that it was not totally true. But I don't think, at that point, he had the full story, so to speak.

[245] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you made the point about "who knows", the "knows" refers to the fact that there was a false statement said in Parliament?

[246] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, at that point when she sent that message on WhatsApp, I didn't know what was the thing to know.

[247] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see.

[248] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I ran through a list, I was like, "Did you resign, did you do this, did you do that?".

[249] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But at some stage, before the 7 August Zoom meeting, you must have known that the fact in question is that there was an untruth said in Parliament?

[250] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, no, she didn't refer to that. When she said "I did something bad", she didn't refer to 3 August.

[251] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it was only said in general terms on the chat?

[252] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[253] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then it was only on the 7 August Zoom meeting that you and Mr Nathan knew that the fact in question, the "something bad" in question, relates to —

[254] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, it was only on the Zoom meeting that we realised it was —

[255] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Hang on, let me finish, so that the transcriber can record. If we speak over each other, they can't record. Just to repeat the question: it was on 7 August that you and Mr Nathan knew that the "something bad" refers to the falsehood that she had said in Parliament on 3 August?

[256] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[257] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that was the premise of coming together to discuss the matter on Zoom?

[258] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[259] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And when she said to you that only Mr Singh or at least Mr Singh and her husband were aware, did she explain when they were aware?

[260] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She didn't explain when her husband was aware but she did explain that she had a phone call with Mr Singh that afternoon.

[261] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 7 August?

[262] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[263] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did she describe the nature of that phone call, what was discussed?

[264] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not in tremendous detail but just that she had told him that it was not true.

[265] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did she tell you or Mr Nathan at the Zoom call what his reaction was?

[266] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[267] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You earlier mentioned that —

[268] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry, I would like to clarify that. Not that I recall.

- [269] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not that you recall?
- [270] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [271] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, she might have?
- [272] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, she might have.
- [273] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She might have told you and Mr Nathan what Mr Singh's reaction was?
- [274] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I can't recall exactly.
- [275] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But both you and Mr Nathan were present?
- [276] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [277] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, Mr Nathan might recall?
- [278] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I suppose so, yes.
- [279] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. Earlier on, when you said your principal focus – and I know you said that in the context of, really, she's a friend of yours – was on her own confidentiality, in your words?
- [280] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [281] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And when I asked you about the falsehood said in Parliament, you said, "Well, I knew Mr Singh was aware."
- [282] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [283] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I take it that you said that because you were somewhat assuaged that senior Party members of the Workers' Party were aware and it is your expectation that the problem would be sorted out at that level?
- [284] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [285] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's your expectation. Would it be fair to say that that's also Mr Nathan's expectation?
- [286] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [287] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which is why both of you would have been focused on her welfare, rather than what was and turned out to be a serious issue in Parliament?
- [288] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[289] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This expectation that Mr Singh was aware and, therefore, senior members of the Workers' Party would be coming in to solve the problem, was that shared by Ms Khan?

[290] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry, can you repeat that question again?

[291] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The expectation that I asked you about, yourself and Mr Nathan, that Mr Singh was aware, and he would, as a senior Party member of the Workers' Party, deal with the problem, to your knowledge, was that also something that Ms Khan expected or that she shared with you?

[292] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I guess to some degree, yes.

[293] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you elaborate?

[294] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't testify, again, to how she truly felt on the matter or her thoughts on it. But, I think, on her part, she might have felt that – and this is my assumption – she had done her part to report it to her Party leader.

[295] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You mentioned that her husband was also aware.

[296] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[297] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you know when he was aware?

[298] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[299] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But certainly by 7 August, he was aware?

[300] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** According to what she shared with me, yes.

[301] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. You also mentioned earlier on that subsequent to the discussion on 7 August, that Ms Khan had a conversation with Mr Singh. You said 8 August earlier?

[302] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[303] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How did you learn about this?

[304] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry, give me a second. I'm trying to recall.

[305] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sure.

[306] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't remember when exactly I learned of it. But I think she might have messaged me on the day itself.

[307] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 8 August?

[308] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

- [309] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you describe the gist of that message?
- [310] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She shared that she had informed Mr Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Faisal Manap.
- [311] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What did she say that she shared with them?
- [312] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I only have what is on WhatsApp, which is that she discussed the speech, told them the truth. I don't know, in exact detail, of that conversation.
- [313] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, your understanding is that, at the very minimum, she would have told Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Faisal Manap that the anecdote that she referred to in Parliament was false?
- [314] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [315] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What else did she say in the WhatsApp discussion with you on 8 August?
- [316] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't recall.
- [317] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you also be able to produce this WhatsApp discussion?
- [318] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I will have to check and look at my phone.
- [319] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, of course, because that would help us understand what was discussed and also fill in some gaps to the extent that you're not able to recall, which I entirely understand.
- [320] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [321] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. After 8 August, when the three senior Party members were aware that there was a falsehood that was said in Parliament on 3 August, what other steps were taken, to your knowledge?
- [322] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** To my knowledge, prior to the 4 October Sitting, I was not privy to what happened in between. So, basically, on my part, I didn't know anything until after 4 October.
- [323] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To your mind, this would have been a very serious revelation, correct?
- [324] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Of course, yes.
- [325] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the expectation is that the senior Party members ought to address the problem, correct?
- [326] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[327] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, as a Party cadre and as an SA to Ms Khan, who delivered the speech, were you not surprised that nothing was heard from the Workers' Party, at least publicly, after 8 August?

[328] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That thought did not cross my mind.

[329] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But were you not surprised?

[330] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Surprised that nothing was done?

[331] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[332] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know if "surprised" would be the right word I would use.

[333] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Well, were you expecting that something would be done because you told me earlier that, in the hands of the senior Party leaders, this is something that you expect them to work out?

[334] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[335] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, "work out" must mean, in the context of having said something that is false in Parliament, to have to fix it, to redress it, correct?

[336] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think, on my part, I just trusted their judgement, whatever it was, like I didn't feel a need to follow up with them personally on it because I felt they know and they should be wise to know what to do with the information.

[337] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, besides Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Faisal Manap, who were aware by, at the latest, 8 August – and I think in Mr Singh's case, earlier – who else in the Workers' Party knew that the anecdote was untrue?

[338] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No one else, to my knowledge.

[339] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To your knowledge?

[340] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[341] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Well, Mr Nathan knew?

[342] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, sorry. Yes, Mr Nathan, the three MPs, myself, yes.

[343] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To your knowledge – you may not have been involved but you might have heard of it, discussed it with other people or been told about it – were you aware of any meetings that took place between the senior Party leaders, any of the activists, volunteers, cadres, in relation to this issue?

[344] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not prior to 4 October.

[345] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Shortly after the speech was delivered on 3 August, we now know what happened in the few days that led up to 8 August, so, I'm still around that period of time. On the one hand – and this is the context – you were concerned about Ms Khan's welfare because of her own revelation to you, as a friend. On the other hand, there is a serious issue in Parliament because it's a matter of serious gravamen. And there's also press speculation about the occasion and why Ms Khan had chosen not to give further details. Would you have seen those press articles? I'm sure you would have come across them.

[346] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I guess I might have read one or two. I don't particularly take note. But articles get sent back and forth like all the time.

[347] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, there're so many nowadays.

[348] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[349] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But in the context of where you were in the days following 3 August, you must have been concerned. On the one hand, Ms Khan has said this, she now has said it's untrue. She's told senior Party leaders. The Press is speculating as to why she is not prepared to give more details. You now know that she's, in fact, unable to give those details and unable to substantiate it, so do the Party leaders. They know that she would have been unable to substantiate any of it because it is not true, it is false. In that context, were you not applying your mind to what next steps would be in this regard?

[350] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Again, not really, because, in my perspective, I'm a friend and also just a member of the Workers' Party, and Parliament is not necessarily a space or arena that I get myself involved in, and I felt that, like, pretty much the two most senior members of the Party knew and there was nothing further that I needed to do or worry about. Was I worried about Ms Khan's personal welfare? To some degree, yes. But beyond that, it didn't cross my mind.

[351] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. So, if I can sort of summarise your position, you are saying that because senior Party leaders of the Workers' Party were aware, they knew it is untrue, you left it in their hands as to how to deal with it, moving forward?

[352] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm, that's correct.

[353] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would have expected that they would protect both the Party's position as well as Ms Khan's position?

[354] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't give an answer to that. I had zero expectations.

[355] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You had no expectations?

[356] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** As in I just thought, okay, they have the information, whatever they think is best, I trust them on that matter.

[357] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you trusted that they would do what's best for the Party and Ms Khan?

[358] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I suppose if you want to list my expectations, I would trust that they would do what's best for the Party, Ms Khan and also for Parliament; being truthful.

[359] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that was your expectation?

[360] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[361] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Post-8 August, after Ms Khan told you that she had a discussion with Mr Pritam Singh, Mr Faisal Manap and Ms Sylvia Lim and had told them that what she had said in Parliament, the anecdote was false, what other discussions did you have with Ms Khan thereafter?

[362] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** You mean after 8 August and before 4 October?

[363] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[364] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I mean, silly things like my family issues.

[365] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm sorry, Ms Loh, I don't mean to intrude into those and I don't need you to explain those. I mean, in relation to the issue that we've just been discussing.

[366] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** In relation to the issue.

[367] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Steps to be taken, what are the consequences?

[368] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, we didn't have any further discussion on this matter, particularly.

[369] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there any views that you exchanged with Mr Nathan on this?

[370] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, not that I can recall.

[371] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did Mr Nathan offer any views to Ms Khan on your group chat?

[372] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge.

[373] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But can you look through and, if there are any, could you also produce them to the Committee of Privileges?

[374] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, okay. Can I write that down?

[375] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course, please do. We will also, maybe after we finish with the transcripts, try and make a note of what various requests I've made. Just so I remember, did you say whether or not the thrust of what Ms Khan's discussion with Mr Singh, Mr Manap, and Ms Lim was on the group chat?

[376] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** As I said earlier, to my knowledge, what she had told them – I mean, she had discussed the speech, not just this particular anecdote, but the speech in general, and she had told them the truth about what she had shared. What she exactly conveyed to them, I'm not privy to that conversation.

[377] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Were there any other forms of communication besides WhatsApp? Were there emails, were there other forms of social media channels?

[378] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge.

[379] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No Telegram or emails?

[380] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, not to my knowledge.

[381] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. But, perhaps, you could have a look, and if there are any other such platforms which deal with issues we have been talking about, please produce them as well.

[382] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I will.

[383] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Let's go to 4 October.

[384] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[385] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 4 October, Ms Khan spoke again in Parliament on this issue. What I thought I would do is I'll just play an excerpt of the exchange because it's just easier to see it visually.

[386] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[387] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, with Mr Chairman's permission, may I just show a clip from the proceedings on 4 October?

[388] **The Chairman:** Yes, please.

[389] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could the Clerk assist me?

[390] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We don't have the volume, the audio. Sorry, Ms Loh, these things tend not to work when you want them to work.

[391] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It's okay.

[392] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is it okay? Could we play it directly or something? Sorry, Mr Chairman.

[393] **The Chairman:** It's okay. *[A video clip of the 4 October 2021 Parliament Sitting was shown. The text can be found in Singapore Parl Debates; Vol 95, Issue No 39, Sitting of 4 October 2021, Ministerial Statement section.]*

Ms Raeesah Khan (Sengkang): I thank the Minister for the clarifications. Like I said, it did happen three years ago, and I have not been successful getting in touch with the person that I accompanied and with regards to confidentiality, I would prefer for it to remain that way.

Mr K Shanmugam: Sir, I asked which Police station, which month and the identities of the officers, to the extent Ms Khan knows them.

Mr Speaker: Ms Khan, to facilitate the investigation by the Police, to check.

Ms Raeesah Khan: Thank you. I do not know the identity of the Police officers.

Mr Speaker: And the questions on Police station, date and so on.

Ms Raeesah Khan: With regards to confidentiality, with the survivor, I will not like to reveal any of this information. Thank you.

Mr K Shanmugam: Sir, we are talking about the Police station. That has got nothing to do the confidentiality.

Mr Speaker: Understand. Ms Raeesah Khan. The Minister is not asking about the identity of the individual.

Ms Raeesah Khan: I understand but, with regards to confidentiality, I will not be revealing any other information. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Minister.

Mr K Shanmugam: Sir, I have to say that, perhaps, Mr Speaker has the power to direct answers since the matter has been raised and through you, Sir, I ask for the direction to be given that we be told which Police station and the month; if not the date, at least the month and which Police station.

Mr Speaker: Ms Khan, I think that is a fair question. Would you like to respond or are you holding to the same position? The reason is that certain allegations have been made which I think are fair and serious. The Police, I understand, would like to follow up to check to make sure that they can rectify the situation. So, any leads would be useful without divulging the name of the lady concerned.

Ms Raeesah Khan: Thank you. I would still like for it to remain confidential. Thank you.

Mr Speaker: Minister.

Mr K Shanmugam: Sir, I do not understand this point about confidentiality. Can I ask through you, Sir, for Ms Khan to confirm in this House that everything she has told us is accurate, that she did accompany such a person and such an incident did happen.

Mr Speaker: Ms Khan.

Ms Raeesah Khan: Yes.

[394] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: I think we can stop the clip now. I'll just ask questions based on this. So, Ms Loh, did you see this exchange at the time the exchange took place?

[395] Ms Loh Pei Ying: No, I did not see it at the time the exchange took place.

[396] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: When did you learn of it?

[397] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I learned of this on the – sorry, I wrote it here. I learned of this on 4 October through a Yahoo News article. Yes, I went back to check.

[398] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Let me take it step by step. Prior to 4 October and you would have been aware that there was a Parliamentary Sitting on 4 October.

[399] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Actually, I wasn't aware. Yes, I wasn't really following the schedule.

[400] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You're aware that there is a monthly Parliamentary Sitting?

[401] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I'm aware.

[402] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there any discussion on what Ms Khan would say if this issue came up again?

[403] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not with me.

[404] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not with you. Are you aware if Ms Khan discussed it with anyone else?

[405] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** This is information that I have that was shared with me after 4 October. I believe she met Mr Pritam Singh the day before.

[406] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The day before 4 October?

[407] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.

[408] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. Can you describe the gist of their discussion?

[409] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay. She didn't – I can't recall if she's the one to tell me this, but definitely I know, in a subsequent meeting that I had with Mr Pritam Singh in person, at his place, that he shared with me he had met her the day before and he had told her that he has a feeling this might come up. And I don't know the full details of what he said to her, but he shared with me that he said, "I will not judge you."

[410] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** He shared with you and said "I will not judge you" to you?

[411] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** To Ms Raeesah Khan.

[412] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To Ms Khan. I'll come to this in a moment, but let's just focus on your knowledge that prior to 4 October, there was a meeting between Ms Khan and Mr Singh.

[413] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[414] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, let's focus on it because you're saying that there's a subsequent occasion where you had direct knowledge because you were at Mr Singh's house discussing the issue.

[415] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Right.

[416] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, prior to 4 October, Ms Khan must have told you or sent you a text to inform you that she had discussed it with Mr Singh?

[417] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry, prior to what, again?

[418] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Prior to 4 October.

[419] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, she didn't.

[420] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, what I'm saying is that you were aware subsequently that prior to 4 October, she had discussed it with Mr Singh?

[421] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[422] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, sometime before 4 October, she and Mr Singh discussed —

[423] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[424] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — what response she should give if this came up in Parliament?

[425] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know if they discussed what response she should give. As I said, it was relayed to me that they had a conversation, and that conversation was that he had a feeling that she would be pressed about this issue again. And his response to that was that he would not judge Ms Raeesah Khan.

[426] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But, you see, in the context of an issue, and let me again give you the circumstances, there was a very serious issue that had been raised post-3 August.

[427] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[428] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We have gone through that, and we are now in a scenario where the Leader of the Opposition, leader of the Workers' Party, is expecting that this issue will be raised again in Parliament.

[429] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[430] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, in the context of any discussion that he must have had, which he had with Ms Khan, one of the key questions that would arise would be what her response ought to be?

[431] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

- [432] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?
- [433] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I would imagine so, yes.
- [434] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you would have heard from Ms Khan that she did have such a discussion with Mr Singh prior to 4 October, correct?
- [435] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [436] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Are you aware if Ms Khan had a discussion with anyone else besides Mr Singh prior to 4 October?
- [437] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge.
- [438] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Any other Member of Parliament?
- [439] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge.
- [440] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Any activists or volunteers?
- [441] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge.
- [442] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** With Mr Nathan?
- [443] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, not to my knowledge.
- [444] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. When you saw this response that she gave in Parliament, were you surprised?
- [445] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't think I was surprised. "Surprised" is not the word I would use. Was I scared for her? Yes.
- [446] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you must have been scared because this is completely at odds with what you know the truth to be?
- [447] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.
- [448] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you would have expected that there ought to have been a proper resolution of this by coming clean and admitting that it was wrong and false.
- [449] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Maybe I can give my full thoughts on the matter.
- [450] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Maybe you can answer my question and then you can elaborate. I'm just asking what your expectation would have been.
- [451] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I can't answer that because it didn't occur to me, like Ms Khan and Mr Singh had a feeling, I mean, they had that conversation that she might be pressed, but I didn't, so I had no – I thought it was done, like I didn't think that it will come up again.

[452] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, I understand. I'm just asking you because, you see, you're telling us that you didn't know that there was going to be a discourse in Parliament, right, on this?

[453] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct, yes.

[454] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you saw it second-hand, as it were, later in the day?

[455] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[456] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But having seen it, knowing what you knew and being involved in discussions with Ms Khan, with Mr Nathan, knowing that she has disclosed this to senior Party leaders, Mr Faisal Manap, Mr Pritam Singh and Ms Sylvia Lim and knowing the truth of the matter and knowing that the anecdote could not be substantiated, my question is: were you not – perhaps not “surprised”, since you may not like that word – but were you not at least taken aback that that position on several occasions, quite strident and quite confident that everything that she had said happened, happened? Were you not taken aback?

[457] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I suppose I was shocked, but my primary feeling was worry and fear, yes.

[458] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you worried and feared because you knew or you appreciated the gravity of the situation?

[459] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[460] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To have lied once in Parliament and then repeated the lie again two months later?

[461] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[462] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?

[463] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[464] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And your expectation was that perhaps it's not – let me rephrase this. Your advice to Ms Khan would have been to own up to this and deal with the issue and not perpetuate the falsehood, correct?

[465] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. And, actually, when I read the news, I had told her my personal advice to her was to tell the CEC.

[466] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Tell the CEC the truth?

[467] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[468] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that she should go to Parliament to tell the truth?

[469] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I didn't go that far.

[470] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But that must be a natural consequence of that, right?

[471] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I mean, telling the CEC would necessitate that the information would come to public knowledge.

[472] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. And, in fact, she did tell the key members of the CEC: Mr Singh, Ms Lim, and Mr Manap?

[473] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. But my message was to tell the whole CEC.

[474] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But what you do know is that at least those three were aware?

[475] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[476] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Whether there was anyone else on the CEC who was aware, you're not so sure?

[477] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[478] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You mentioned that sometime subsequent to 4 October, you then met with Mr Pritam Singh at his house?

[479] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[480] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What date was this?

[481] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** 12 October.

[482] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you describe how this meeting came to be set up?

[483] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I had reached out to him.

[484] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How did you reach out to him?

[485] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** On WhatsApp.

[486] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us the gist of that discussion on WhatsApp?

[487] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I just said, "Hi, Pritam." I said, "Yudhish and I would like to meet you to discuss basically what had transpired."

[488] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And what was his response?

[489] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** He said, "Okay." He gave me his address.

[490] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And can you tell us whether, prior to the meeting, yourself and Yudhish had any prior discussion? You must have had for you to agree to go to the meeting together, right?

[491] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah. So, earlier on 12 October, I believe Ms Khan phoned me – I mean, if I recall correctly, a lot of things have happened then. So, she phoned me to share with me that there was a decision for her to make the statement to clarify with Parliament. And my request to meet with Mr Pritam Singh was to confirm how it should take place.

[492] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you saw the statement that she gave in Parliament on 4 October, and knowing what you knew at that point in time, were you not surprised that Mr Singh would sit in Parliament, along with Ms Lim and Mr Manap, and allow Ms Khan to perpetuate and repeat the lies several times?

[493] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Maybe I can again give a fuller explanation on my thoughts. At that moment, my primary concern was fear and worry for both Ms Khan and the Party. It was only much later, when I had more time to think about it, that I felt that he should have spoken up.

[494] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And why do you think he should have spoken up?

[495] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Because he's the Leader of the Opposition and of the Workers' Party. And it's the right thing to do.

[496] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you saw the exchange on 4 October, does it not suggest to you that, because you subsequently knew there was a prior discussion between Ms Khan and Mr Singh, you would have thought that this was the agreed position between Ms Khan and Mr Singh, correct?

[497] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I'm not sure how to answer that, because, as I said, I didn't even know the Sitting was happening and I didn't know she would be pressed again, and I didn't know that they had a conversation prior.

[498] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. That's fair enough, because you knew this only later.

[499] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[500] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But now that you know what you know, would it not be a fair assumption that the meeting prior to 4 October between Mr Singh and Ms Khan was to settle the terms of what she would say if she is pressed?

[501] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, I would imagine —

[502] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If she had expected what would happen?

[503] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, I would imagine that they should have discussed the best way to handle it.

[504] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, were you taken aback or surprised that this was the agreed position with the Party leader in Parliament?

[505] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I mean, I knew it wasn't the agreed position to take because Mr Singh had left the choice up to her, with his words of "I will not judge you."

[506] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But, certainly, Mr Singh, by that time, knew what the true position was, and he was present in Parliament when those falsehoods continued to be perpetrated, correct?

[507] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[508] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** As a senior Party member and a cadre member, were you not surprised?

[509] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I was not surprised, but I was disappointed.

[510] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What do you think Ms Khan's role in that was? Because, as I have explained at the start, what we need to do, as the Committee of Privileges, is to assess her culpability, relative culpability. And one of the important points for us to consider is the extent to which she made her own decisions or she had sought the counsel or advice of senior Party leaders. So, in that context, do you think this is something that Ms Khan went along with, was told to do, or decided on her own volition to continue to lie in Parliament?

[511] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't really give an answer to that. I really don't know.

[512] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm asking you to make a judgement based on the fact that not just are you Ms Khan's SA, but a friend, someone who knows her reasonably well.

[513] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[514] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And with whom she obviously confides in because you and Mr Nathan, besides her family, would be the only ones she confided in.

[515] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think, given that Ms Khan and Mr Singh's experience with politics is very different, considering Mr Singh is more seasoned, that she would have relied on him to some extent for clarity and direction and that, because he said, "I will not judge you", it might have given her the false sense that it was all right to not come clean.

[516] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This phrase, "I will not judge you", was intended to convey a sense of assurance to Ms Khan, right?

[517] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know like how it was said, yeah.

[518] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I'm asking you from the perspective of you having heard from Ms Khan, who reported the conversation to you.

[519] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Actually, it was Mr Singh who shared with me the conversation.

[520] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was your takeaway, since you heard directly from him?

[521] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I suppose he was implying that he gave her the choice and that she had then acted independently thereafter.

[522] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's what he's implying?

[523] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[524] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But your expectation is that, as a senior Party leader, as you said, he's more seasoned and would be expected to guide her in that process, correct?

[525] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[526] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, on 12 October, coming back to this meeting, Yudhish and yourself had arranged to meet with Mr Singh?

[527] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[528] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was Ms Khan present?

[529] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[530] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What time was this meeting?

[531] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It was late at night, I think around 8pm or 9pm.

[532] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you, as far as you can recall, recount the meeting to us: what happened, who said what and what was discussed?

[533] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It was a fairly long meeting. So, I won't be able to recall everything, but I can give you the gist.

[534] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course. Please do.

[535] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** The gist was to discuss what would happen after she informs Parliament of the truth, meaning how she should say the truth and, procedurally, what I would be involved in and what Mr Nathan would be involved in thereafter, such as, for me, on my part, maintaining open communications with residents and volunteers about the matter, because we knew that everyone would be shocked, and, on Mr Nathan's part, to help maintain any social media messages and things like that, because we know she would receive a lot of messages thereafter. So, he was brought in to help manage that, I suppose, yeah.

[536] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you discuss how you would put across the points in Parliament to clarify her position?

[537] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, there was a discussion of how she should tell the truth and to what extent of personal information she should reveal. So, definitely, the consensus was that she should tell the truth, but that she had lied, but we were not sure if she should share that personal anecdote of her being a sexual assault survivor herself.

[538] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At any point in this meeting, did the meeting discuss why she could not or should not have told the truth earlier? I mean, after all, this is barely a week after the last Sitting.

[539] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** So, you mean why she didn't say the truth when pressed on 4 October?

[540] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 4 October.

[541] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, we didn't discuss that.

[542] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You didn't discuss that because you and Mr Nathan, I presume, had assumed that this was something that was discussed between Mr Singh and Ms Khan?

[543] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I think we didn't discuss it because it was just like water under the bridge, like happened already.

[544] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Okay. Yes, I can understand that. What else was discussed at this meeting? For instance, did you have some points? Was there a draft?

[545] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, no, there was no draft.

[546] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you take notes as to what was discussed?

[547] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, we didn't take notes. It was just a discussion of – I mean, let me give a bit more context as well.

[548] When I went to the meeting, my primary concern as her friend was to make sure that her mental well-being was protected and, understandably, everything that has transpired, it's a very stressful event for Ms Khan. And given that she was a victim of sexual assault as well, I was worried that a revelation like this to the public would be very hard for her to bear. And I had gone to that meeting with the intention of working things in a way that she could be protected as much as possible.

[549] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At the meeting, can you give me a gist of what Mr Singh said, his approach, his thinking, and what he told her to do, or what advice he gave her and to yourself and Mr Nathan?

[550] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, his advice he gave to her was that she needed to tell the truth, and, I mean, he was very sure of that. But he wasn't sure if also if she should reveal the circumstances of her sexual assault. And then, it revolved largely around that. Yeah, I can't recall exactly, like the specifics of our conversation.

[551] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** After this meeting, did you share your thoughts on what had transpired at the meeting with Ms Khan?

[552] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry, I'm trying to recall. I think briefly, yeah, briefly.

[553] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It must have been so, because you are here discussing, again in context, it is now two-and-a-half months since she first gave a false anecdote in Parliament. Since then, she has faced several questions from the media. There has been a further questioning in Parliament, a very direct one as you can see earlier. And thereafter, in the aftermath of the 4 October Sitting, there was even more focus on why she could not come with details.

[554] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm-hmm.

[555] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 12 October, you are discussing costs, which is diametrically opposite to everything that she had done previously.

[556] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Right.

[557] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She's not present at the meeting.

[558] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah.

[559] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it would have been natural for you or Mr Nathan, or both, to have discussed these details with her, because how would you know that she would now do this?

[560] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah. I can't remember how we discussed it with her but I think we informed her in some way or another that we are here to help her, basically, me and Mr Nathan.

[561] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you must have narrated to her what transpired, what was agreed on?

[562] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not everything.

[563] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, what did you tell her?

[564] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I told her that it was the right thing like it's the right thing to do. Maybe let me just rewind a little bit.

[565] I think when she called me on 12 October to tell me that she was going to tell Parliament of the truth, there was a degree of worry on her part, obviously, of how it will affect her thereafter, which is why I went to seek Mr Singh's confirmation of how it would take place so that things can be put in place to ensure her mental well-being, as in because it would be really bad. So, to make sure that at least she was not so bad after.

[566] Then after we had a discussion with Mr Singh, I believe we conveyed to her that, "Okay, it's the right thing to do and we will support you in this endeavour", yeah. And that support, as I mentioned, refers specifically to me, ensuring that communications remained open with volunteers and residents, and, on Mr Nathan's part, to ensure that there was someone looking after her social media accounts after that.

[567] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, I understand this. So, would you say that after 12 October, there was a consensus that she would now make a clarification in Parliament?

- [568] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.
- [569] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you start to put together the terms of what she would say, discuss it with her? With Mr Nathan?
- [570] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Ms Khan drafted her own statement, but Mr Nathan and I did sort of help to review it and assist in, again, polishing grammar, clarity, yeah.
- [571] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Are you aware if anyone else gave Ms Khan comments on the draft?
- [572] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I'm aware.
- [573] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us who gave comments to her?
- [574] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** There were many – there were not many, but there were a few versions of this draft before the final statement, and I believe Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim – not sure about Mr Faisal Manap – but definitely Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Pritam Singh had given her their comments.
- [575] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What about the two Members who moved the Motion: Ms He Ting Ru and Mr Leon Pereira?
- [576] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** They were not aware of what's going on at this point.
- [577] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To your knowledge?
- [578] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** To my knowledge.
- [579] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was some of the input given by Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and perhaps Mr Manap? Can you give us a gist?
- [580] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't recall exactly. I was only present for their comments on one part, like one occasion of the draft and I think there was a discussion of how much personal information she should reveal, like the details of her sexual assault.
- [581] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me tell you where I'm coming from on this so that you can understand the angle I'm taking. I'd like to understand the evolution of this draft, beginning from 12 October, your discussions, which were, obviously, according to your evidence so far, which I understand, was the genesis of what eventually transpired in Parliament on 1 November.
- [582] So, that's roughly a two, two-and-a-half-week window. I'm trying to understand the evolution of the draft and you said that there were a few versions of the draft were exchanged, several persons giving comments to it.
- [583] So, I'd like as far as possible for you to track for me the evolution, what was initially agreed, what was added in or removed, what were the discussions on this and how it eventually became the version that we saw on 1 November.

[584] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay. Admittedly, I cannot remember everything and I don't know what was removed or added. But I think it was really almost kind of like rearranging paragraphs of what should come first and things like that. So, I don't recall, on my part, there were like major subtractions. It was sort of redacting – not “redacting”, sorry, that's the wrong word.

[585] Removing parts where, for example, she would describe why she did not report her own sexual assault when she was younger.

[586] So, we removed a lot of sort of the personal reasons for why she lied, in terms of her logic and explanation, and our edits were primarily for legibility, clarity and, again, ensuring that there was a message to tell the lie – I mean, come clean with the lie as truthfully as possible and with as much clarity as possible, I guess.

[587] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there a discussion on the reasons why she told the lie?

[588] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** The reason was always the one that she shared, which is, she didn't want to reveal that she was part of this support group.

[589] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me ask for the Clerk to play that excerpt of the proceedings on 1 November, and then I'll ask you some questions about that statement.

[590] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[591] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could the Clerk assist me, please?

[592] **The Chairman:** While we are waiting for that, maybe I'll just ask: in terms of the draft, what was the form in which these exchanges were taking place? Was it WhatsApp, was it through email?

[593] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** For the draft, specifically, it was in person.

[594] **The Chairman:** Meaning hard copy and —

[595] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, there were printed copies and —

[596] **The Chairman:** And you would have some of these copies still available?

[597] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I don't have any of them.

[598] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sorry, I'd like to start with Ms Khan's statement. I think she made a brief statement before she was asked some questions by the Leader of the House. *[A video clip of the 4 October 2021 Parliament Sitting was shown. The text can be found in Singapore Parl Debates; Vol 95, Issue No 41, Sitting of 1 November 2021, Clarification section.]*

Ms Raeesah Khan: On 3 August, I spoke in this House on the Motion on Empowering Women. During my speech, I had shared an anecdote of a survivor of sexual assault. I was not present with the survivor in the Police station as I described. The anecdote was shared by the survivor in a support group for women, which I was a part of.

I did not share that I was a part of the group as I did not have the courage to publicly admit that I was part of it.

I attended the support group because I myself am a survivor of sexual assault. I was sexually assaulted when I was 18 studying abroad. That assault has traumatised me till this day. The fear and shame accompanying sexual assault is extreme and long lasting, as it has been and still is for me.

Unlike the survivor whose anecdote I shared in this House, I did not have the courage to report my own assault. Yet, as a survivor, I wanted so deeply to speak up and also share the account I had heard when speaking on the Motion without revealing my own private experience.

I should not have shared the survivor's anecdote without her consent, nor should I have said that I accompanied her to the Police station when I did not. It was wrong of me to do so.

To survivors of sexual violence, I hope that this does not deter you from reporting your assaults. In sharing an anecdote without consent, I disregarded the principle of consent in discussions around survivors' consent and sexual assault. As a survivor myself, I feel this failure deeply.

It is important for me to take responsibility for my actions, for my error of judgement and to set the record straight.

I wish to correct the record by retracting the anecdote that I shared on 3 August and I wish to apologise to the Singapore Police Force.

[599] Okay, we can stop there. There are several other exchanges, and I thought, rather than play it here and take time, I will get a hard copy to you so that you'd have a reference point, in case you can't remember what was exchanged between herself and the Leader of the House. So, could the Clerk please give to Ms Loh, copies of the extracts from 1 November?

[600] While waiting for that, Ms Loh, I assume that this would have been one occasion where you watched this live?

[601] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Hilariously, actually, I didn't because something happened in the office and I needed to rush to the office.

[602] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. But you would have watched it sometime shortly after, I assume?

[603] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I managed to rush home in time to only watch the part where Ms Indranee Rajah questioned her.

[604] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see. So, not the initial statement, but the subsequent exchange?

[605] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[606] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which you now have before you. So, you would have seen it. This is about a month ago, but I put the record here so that you can refresh yourself.

[607] If you follow a few lines from where we stopped the video, you will see that, in the exchange between Ms Khan and the Leader, she confirmed that she had, in fact, not gone down to the Police station, and that's not true, right?

[608] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[609] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the part about accompanying the survivor to the Police station and what the Member allegedly saw was also untrue, right?

[610] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[611] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And further down, Ms Khan accepted that the statement "that the person that I had accompanied", which was her response later in the day on 3 August, was also untrue, correct?

[612] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[613] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, finally, if you look further down the page, at page 3, Ms Khan confirmed that when she was asked by Minister Shanmugam that everything she had told us is accurate, she did accompany such a person and such an incident did happen, and her answer of "yes" on that occasion was untrue, right?

[614] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[615] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I can show you the relevant portions of the rest of the transcript, but would you accept that there would have been no need to refer to the question of her own attendance at the support group to make the point that she wanted to?

[616] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I suppose there was no need to.

[617] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan herself accepted that in the course of further discourse between herself and the Leader of the House, right?

[618] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry, let me read it a bit.

[619] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sure. Let me refer you to page 4. And if you'd look at page 4, you'll see somewhere around the first one-third, Ms Indranee Rajah says "I do completely empathise with the reason... All I'm asking is this and I'm not sure that I had a response. My question was simply: it would have been possible to tell the story without the untruths and without referring to the survivor's group. Would the Member agree?"

[620] Ms Khan says: "Sorry? So, if I was unclear, I apologise. Yes, I do feel it would have been possible." So, she accepted that it's possible to make the speech, make the same points, but without going into the support group?

[621] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm-hmm.

[622] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Further down the page, in fact, over the next page, at page 5, Ms Loh, you will see in the middle, Ms Khan says: "One of the principles of being in a women's support group is that the details should remain confidential." You see that?

[623] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[624] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Indranee Rajah then goes on to say a few lines down from there that "...she did not want to disclose because of confidentiality. But, based on what the Member has just said, actually, by that time, because the story had already been recounted, it means the Member had already breached the confidentiality to the survivor. Is that not correct?" Ms Khan's answer: "That is correct, yes."

[625] So, confidentiality is also not a reason for having put up the false anecdote. Would you agree? Meaning, if you follow the exchange between Ms Raeesah Khan and Ms Indranee Rajah, the fact of the matter is at the moment you describe – and she described it as a 25-year-old three years ago and so on – the moment you described that occasion, that's a breach of the confidentiality already, which Ms Khan accepted, right?

[626] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[627] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, actually, confidentiality was not a reason for having given the false anecdote, would you accept?

[628] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think there are varying degrees of confidentiality – sorry, it's a long word. Well, now we understand that what that means is including not revealing details of what was shared in that support group. I suppose, without providing personal information, just saying that this happened, somebody went to a Police station, this happened, was like alright, I guess. I don't know.

[629] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But, you see, Ms Khan accepted it, and I think it is fairly common, it's a standard when it comes to mutual support groups in particular, that even mentioning this would be a breach of the confidentiality and I think Ms Khan agreed with that.

[630] So, on that basis that Ms Khan had agreed with that, would you not agree that, actually, confidentiality was no excuse, not a reason, for giving a false anecdote? It stands to reason, right?

[631] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know how to respond to this question.

[632] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If I come and say that, "Well, because of confidentiality, I had to lie", when, in fact, you had already breached a confidentiality, it would be a circular argument, right?

[633] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I think there's a slight separation here. Prior to knowing that she had lied, confidentiality of protecting the victim, to me, is a good reason to me.

[634] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To you?

[635] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[636] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I'm asking to you look at it from the perspective of —

[637] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** But, thereafter, I don't think it was Ms Raeesah Khan's intention to say that she had lied because of confidential reasons. She had lied to keep her identity as a sexual assault victim private.

[638] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but as we agreed on that earlier, that fact need not have been disclosed. It could have remained private and, still, Ms Khan could have made the same points, a point that she had agreed to herself, right?

[639] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[640] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, where I'm coming from, Ms Loh, is that, in fact, if you look at what we have seen on the screen earlier, the additional reasons which explain or seek to explain away why she gave the false anecdote, they don't hold water, right?

[641] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I, personally, disagree. My perspective, and this was something I shared with her personally at some point, that it was important that, in her statement, she made known her personal anecdote to some small degree, because it is a thing that people often disbelieve sexual assault survivors, and without sharing that experience, her lie would seem really, really bad, for lack of a better word, and the repercussion is not so much on her, but on other sexual assault victims.

[642] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, which is why, in this case, instead of sharing her own story to make the speech in Parliament more believable, she made up a story about accompanying a victim. And the purpose of doing that was to lend believability and credibility to the account, right?

[643] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I mean, I can't answer that for why she lied. She has her own reasons, yeah.

[644] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Looking at it with your own lens, objectively, that would have been a reason for giving that account?

[645] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That would have been a consequence. Yeah, I don't know if it was a reason.

[646] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright, okay. So, you accept that the consequence of someone listening to a speech, reading a speech with a personal anecdote, which, in this case, was a false one, would get the impression that this is a more credible story, right?

[647] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct, yes, I agree to that.

[648] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Earlier on, Mr Chairman asked if the drafts were exchanged in copies which you still have. Do you still have them?

[649] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I don't have any of them.

[650] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Who would have them?

[651] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Ms Khan.

- [652] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan would have them?
- [653] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [654] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She would have kept the various versions exchanged, and comments?
- [655] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I'm not sure if she kept it.
- [656] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were any of these drafts circulated by email or WhatsApp?
- [657] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, not to my knowledge.
- [658] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That means not to you?
- [659] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah. Not to me.
- [660] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But it may have been to other people?
- [661] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, maybe.
- [662] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, just to be clear, can you tell me who was involved in reviewing the draft? Besides Mr Singh, Ms Lim, yourself, Ms Khan, was Mr Nathan involved?
- [663] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, Mr Nathan was involved.
- [664] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Who else was involved?
- [665] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge.
- [666] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were any of the other senior members of WP involved?
- [667] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I mean —
- [668] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not to your knowledge?
- [669] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge. I mean, I wasn't part of this conversation, but I assume, at some point, there was an informing of Party leaders, like the CEC, and then the statement was made.
- [670] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you would expect that this statement, whilst principally drafted and commented upon by a few people, would get the clearance and buy-in of the CEC?
- [671] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I'm not sure about that.
- [672] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You're not sure?

- [673] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah.
- [674] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is that what you expected?
- [675] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't expect that. I think they would have been informed that she would be coming clean, but I don't know if they saw a copy of the statement.
- [676] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, they would know what she would be planning to do, to come clean, but may not know the specific details of what would be in the statement?
- [677] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.
- [678] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you do know that Mr Singh and Ms Lim were aware and were giving comments and were part of the drafting process?
- [679] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, they were part of the drafting process. They were giving comments, but I don't think they actually typed in the words. That's all Ms Khan.
- [680] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, alright. But you can shape and put a direction to it even without having to type in the words, right?
- [681] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, so I wouldn't use the term "drafting".
- [682] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Influencing?
- [683] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [684] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. In this period of time – and I'm still at 12 October. That's about two and a half weeks before 1 November, which is where we saw the speech.
- [685] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah.
- [686] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was the discussion that you had with Ms Khan?
- [687] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Predominantly, just about the statement. And just about her Meet-the-People Session (MPS), that's all.
- [688] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were there any interactions that you had with anyone else from the WP?
- [689] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.
- [690] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On this issue, no? Not at all?
- [691] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.
- [692] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you be able to check your phone for messages to see if there are any other communications that you might have had?

[693] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I will, but I'm quite sure on that, because it was obviously very serious and we wanted to keep it contained.

[694] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, those occasions where you exchanged a draft, earlier on you told Mr Chairman, that it was in hard copy. And you also told me that on 12 October, there were no drafts yet.

[695] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[696] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, obviously sometime between 12 October and 1 November, you must have met together again to discuss the drafts, right? Since you said it's not on email?

[697] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[698] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, can you describe that to me, please? When did you meet? Who did you meet? What dates? How many times? What was discussed?

[699] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay. I didn't write this down for some reason, and I can't remember exactly when we met, but I was part of one meeting at the Workers' Party headquarters, and people present were whom I have already shared.

[700] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Just for the record, it's Mr Singh, Ms Lim —

[701] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mr Singh, Ms Lim, Mr Nathan, myself and Ms Khan.

[702] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What date would this meeting be?

[703] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't remember.

[704] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But sometime in the intervening period between 12 October and 1 November?

[705] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah.

[706] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. There would have been WhatsApp discussions to set up the meeting, right, to explain that there was a draft that was done?

[707] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I was informed by Mr Singh.

[708] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you had a chat with him as well?

[709] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[710] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you be able to produce that?

[711] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[712] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To the extent relevant to any of the issues concerning the Committee of Privileges, anything arising from or related to the speech that was made in Parliament on 3 August?

[713] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** We didn't discuss on text, the details.

[714] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To the extent that you find anything, can you please give us a copy?

[715] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[716] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Besides this meeting, were there any other meetings?

[717] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge.

[718] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you had one meeting to discuss the drafts?

[719] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[720] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it was at that meeting that views were exchanged?

[721] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[722] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were they exchanged verbally or did someone mark up the drafts? How was that done?

[723] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Verbally.

[724] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Verbally?

[725] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[726] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I know it's about six weeks ago. But can you try to recall – actually, it's less than six weeks ago; it's about a month ago. Can you try and recall who said what at that meeting?

[727] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think, in that meeting, there was a discussion. I think Ms Khan had shown her family a version of the draft and I think they were very concerned. So, there was a lot of discussion on her family that day.

[728] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give us a gist of that concern?

[729] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, because, I guess, to my knowledge, even on 12 October, her parents did not know of the truth and of her own sexual assault. So, it was like a lot of things to take in for them. So, her parents were very upset on various reasons: the fact that she lied, the fact that she was sexually assaulted and the fact that she was going to have to tell everything to Parliament. So, they were very, very concerned and a lot of the discussion was on how can we word her statement to ensure her parents were respected and to allay their concerns.

[730] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was her family aware of what had been discussed on 12 October and the eventual position taken by Ms Khan and Mr Singh?

[731] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Aware of?

[732] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Aware of what she plans to do at the next Sitting of Parliament.

[733] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know when they were made aware exactly, I can't recall, but definitely before she made the statement, they knew. So, that meeting was kind of go over their concerns, I suppose.

[734] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Their concerns related to? Were they drafting issues or was it a question of whether this should have been done at all, in what direction, or is it what kind of points to be raised?

[735] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think what kinds of points should be raised, yeah. I can't recall.

[736] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Your sense is that the family would have been agreeable to her coming clean in Parliament, to speak the truth?

[737] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know exactly what was exchanged between her and her family members. But what I understood was that her family was very worried on, again, also, like, her well-being.

[738] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course. Are you aware if her family met with or spoke to or communicated with any members of the Workers' Party?

[739] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not to my knowledge.

[740] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. We were in the process of going through what was discussed at the meeting on the – I forgot if you gave me a date. You said a few days after 12 October, right?

[741] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know if it was a few days. I genuinely cannot remember.

[742] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At the Workers' Party HQ?

[743] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[744] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And we were going through what was the individual responses by each person. So, you said that the concerns of the family members took quite a bit of time?

[745] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[746] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Besides this, were there any other comments that you can remember?

[747] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** As I said, the concerns were or the conversation was primarily around her family's concerns. To what degree of how much she should explain why she lied. As I said, why she didn't report her own sexual assault.

[748] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did anyone else in the Workers' Party who was present – Mr Singh, Ms Lim, or Mr Nathan – talk about the two reasons that she gave on confidentiality and also on the mutual support group? The very two reasons that she agreed with Ms Rajah subsequently were not factors which would have mattered? I showed you those passages—

[749] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, yes, I understand. I'm just thinking if they did. I don't think they mentioned specifically confidentiality. Yes, I can't recall if they did.

[750] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To just assist you a little bit, confidentiality could not have been a new point at that point in time because it was, in fact, the core of Ms Khan's answers on 4 October.

[751] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I understand, yes.

[752] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, confidentiality could not have been a new reason.

[753] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, yes, yes.

[754] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, in fact, it was used as a reason for not going into further details on 4 October, which, if you remember, Ms Loh, took place after Ms Khan and Mr Singh had a discussion on the Parliamentary Sitting and the expectation that this issue would come up, right?

[755] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Right.

[756] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that's the context. Therefore, I'm assuming for the time being that Mr Singh, Ms Khan knew that confidentiality would be used as one reason, or one excuse on 4 October for not disclosing further details. And that seemed to have carried through to the 1 November meeting – 1 November speech, rather. And I'm trying to ask you if you can remember any discussions along this vein.

[757] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** So, okay, you're asking if Mr Singh or any other Party members or leaders had requested that the confidentiality reason be addressed in her statement? Is that what you're asking?

[758] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not so much addressed; anything about it.

[759] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I can't recall. But I don't think so.

[760] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Perhaps if we looked at the drafts that have been revised over time, the evolution of the drafts, which you say Ms Khan has, perhaps that would shed some light.

[761] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, but after that meeting, it had evolved a bit more and I was not a part of those. Like, when I saw her speech, it was, like, new to me. It didn't change severely, but I was like, "Oh, okay, this is the final version".

[762] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, there are parts of it which had been changed subsequent to your involvement?

[763] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[764] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And which you saw only for the first time on 1 November.

[765] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[766] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At any point in time, between the 12 October when you decided or you had a meeting with Mr Singh to come clean and how to deal with it, and if you remember, you said that prior to that meeting, there was a call, the discussion you had with Ms Khan about her coming to Parliament to come clean, at any point in time between that and 1 November, was there any discussion to your knowledge, about what the Workers' Party would do, consequent upon her giving the statement on 1 November?

[767] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** What the Workers' Party would do, as in like putting out a statement or —

[768] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Put out a statement, set up a disciplinary inquiry?

[769] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[770] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Nothing whatsoever?

[771] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[772] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In fact, what were the words you said Mr Singh said to you about Ms Khan?

[773] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** After the —

[774] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, you mentioned that Mr Singh told you that he would not judge Ms Khan.

[775] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, that was on 12 October.

[776] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That, I think, we earlier agreed, you took as a sign that that was reassuring, right? He's prepared to let her do as she thinks appropriate?

[777] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I mean, I would assume he's prepared. If he said that to her, I mean, you say that with the knowledge that it could go either way, right?

[778] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but he's also saying that with the knowledge that, as early as a few days after the statement was made, he was aware that it was false.

[779] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Like after the 1 November statement?

[780] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, after the 3 August speech.

[781] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, yeah, he knew it was false when he said that.

[782] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see, the context is this. There was a speech that was made in Parliament. To speak a falsehood anywhere is serious but, in Parliament, it is all the more so. The leader of the Party is aware shortly after 3 August that it was false. He sat by and discussed it with her in the expectation that two months later, this issue will come up again and he was in Parliament when she reiterated the falsehoods several times, including a very strident answer that we saw the video of earlier. And then there was a meeting to say, “Let’s come clean,” but he says to her, through you, that he will not judge her. In the context of this

[783] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** He didn’t say that to her through me. He said it to her directly in a meeting that the two of them had. But then, later on, on 12 October he relayed that —

[784] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** He relayed that to you?

[785] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** He recounted it to me, yes.

[786] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. Thank you for that clarification. And in that context, nothing was said about what sanctions would take place and so on?

[787] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[788] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, this is the context that I have sketched out.

[789] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[790] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** My question is: in that context, did it surprise you when the Workers’ Party decided to set up a disciplinary inquiry?

[791] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, it surprised me.

[792] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I’d like you to look at the two statements issued by the Workers’ Party on 1 and 2 November, and I will hand you the copies. Could the Clerks please assist me?

[793] The 1 and 2 November statements of the Workers’ Party, one is titled “The Secretary-General’s Statement”, the other is titled “The Workers’ Party Media Statement”, 1 and 2 November respectively. Ms Loh, let me just take you through the two statements briefly.

[794] On 1 November – we saw the clip in Parliament earlier – shortly after the Parliamentary Sitting, the Secretary-General released a statement which says: “MP Raeesah Khan should not have shared an account that contained untruths in the House.” Let me just pause for a moment. Did you read this statement when it was issued?

[795] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I mean, I only read it after it was issued. I was not privy that a statement would be coming out.

[796] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did the first line strike you as odd, given that, in fact, the Secretary-General was present in Parliament when she not just shared the untruth, but continued to perpetrate it on 4 October?

[797] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I wouldn't say that it strikes me as odd.

[798] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was your reaction? Do you think this is usual?

[799] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** My honest opinion – and this is my personal opinion – is that I was not surprised that a statement had been made because I think he felt obliged and it was kind of made sense that, after a big revelation, that the Secretary-General would put out a statement. But I was, I suppose, not fully happy with the contents of this statement because it did not reveal his knowledge of the matter.

[800] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Absolutely.

[801] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[802] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This seeks to draw a line and a divide between what he knew, what the Workers' Party knew and what Ms Khan did. Correct?

[803] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, it was – and this is my personal opinion, that the intention of this statement was to make it seem that way.

[804] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Exactly, thank you.

[805] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[806] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It goes on to say that: “The PPIA gives an MP significant freedom of speech, to the extent that what is said in Parliament cannot be impeached or questioned outside Parliament. This freedom of speech does not extend to communicating untruthful accounts even if an MP's motives are not malicious.”

[807] Again, bearing in mind the context that I have raised earlier, and bearing in mind what happened on 4 October, given that there was a discussion between Ms Khan and Mr Singh prior to 4 October which centred around his expectation that this issue would be raised and, therefore, what she should say in response, does this sentence strike you as odd, surprising?

[808] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** The sentence “MP Raeesah Khan should not have shared an account”?

[809] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Does it also strike you as one which seeks to divide the line between what he, as the Secretary-General, knew, the Workers' Party knew and what Ms Khan did?

[810] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know if it sought to divide, but my feeling was that it seemed to want to separate matters, yes.

[811] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, “separate matters”; “separate” meaning between the Workers’ Party and the Secretary-General on the one hand and Ms Khan on the other?

[812] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I suppose.

[813] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That’s what you meant, right?

[814] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[815] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It goes on to say “Raeesah has apologised to the SPF, victims of sexual assault, her constituents, WP members, volunteers, parents. She shared with me that she wanted to set the record straight in Parliament.” Again, just pausing for a moment, this will probably make reference to the various discussions that Ms Khan had with Mr Singh, presumably culminating in the period around 12 October; correct?

[816] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm-hmm, yes, correct.

[817] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There might be others, to your knowledge?

[818] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I mean they might have conversations between 4 October and 12 October, but I don’t know the details of those discussions, if they had any.

[819] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it goes on to say: “This was the correct thing to do”?

[820] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[821] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This suggests that, prior to this statement being made and the apology being tendered on 1 November, he had no knowledge of this?

[822] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don’t know.

[823] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. But, overall, would you accept that, objectively – I’m not asking you to read into other people’s state of mind or intentions – but, objectively, I mean, you’re an editor —

[824] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[825] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — you edit content —

[826] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[827] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — you, obviously, have good experience on that, having majored in history as well?

[828] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[829] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Objectively, this statement conveys the impression that the Secretary-General and the Workers’ Party, in general, were not aware of the falsehoods spoken by Ms Khan in Parliament prior to 1 November, right?

[830] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Again, I cannot – because many people read this and everyone will have different opinions of this.

[831] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I’m just asking for a reaction from you.

[832] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I know. To me, given that I knew what happened when I read this, it felt that the omission of their involvement was intentional.

[833] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, and that’s quite stark by its omission, right?

[834] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[835] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Given all that you know that has happened?

[836] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[837] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which includes Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim’s knowledge of the falsehood from a few days after the 3 August, correct?

[838] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[839] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you now go to the next statement on 2 November and, this time round, it’s the Workers’ Party media statement. It says that “The Workers’ Party CEC has approved the formation of a Disciplinary Panel to look into the admissions made by MP Raeesah Khan in Parliament on 1 November 2021, arising from an earlier speech made by the MP in Parliament on 3 August 2021. The Panel comprises Secretary-General Pritam Singh, Chair Sylvia Lim and Vice Chair Faisal Manap. The Panel will report its findings and recommendations to the CEC after it completes its work.” And it goes on to say that “the work of the DP is separate from the Committee of Privileges.”

[840] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[841] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh, did it not strike you as surprising that this step was being taken? We talked about it earlier and I think you said yes.

[842] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[843] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That they had set up a DP to do this?

[844] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm-hmm.

[845] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it would be surprising because, actually, the very people on this DP were well aware of the truth of the matter?

[846] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[847] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** From a few days after 3 August?

[848] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[849] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the very people who were involved knew that it was untrue, knew that she perpetrated the untruth in Parliament again two months later, it's now the only members of a DP set up – and I look at the words here – “to look into the admissions by Ms Khan”.

[850] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[851] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh, this is a completely self-serving panel, right?

[852] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Admittedly, I think that's a bit of a loaded question. But when I saw this – okay, I'm willing to give a bit more information – the morning of 2 November, Mr Pritam Singh had messaged me to inform me that he would be doing this – I mean, presumably, the Party would follow with her statement on this matter – and I had relayed to him that I trust that they will make the right decision. I said that as an immediate response, but I was surprised. And, later on, on hindsight, when I thought more about it, I do think that it's a major conflict of interest, yes.

[853] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's not just a major conflict of interest, for which I agree with you in the first place, given now what we know they knew.

[854] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm.

[855] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But it's also self-serving in that does it not seek to, as I have said earlier, draw a line between the Workers' Party and Ms Khan —

[856] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[857] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — and seek to do something which, ultimately, would put the blame entirely on Ms Khan?

[858] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** When the Disciplinary Panel convened, my feeling was that, okay, it's appropriate and necessary to some degree because she did do like, it's a major, this is a serious mistake that she did, and a very serious thing that she lied in Parliament and, therefore, it makes sense that she should be disciplined, yes. But I disagree with how it was done and executed. My personal opinion is that if they felt that disciplinary action was necessary, they should have done that from the very beginning, when they knew following 3 August.

[859] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, absolutely. And would it not have been appropriate, when such a statement, is issued to disclose that, actually, the three members on the DP had intimate knowledge of the falsehood from an early stage and let the public judge what they do in that context, if they should still continue to sit on the DP, correct?

[860] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I fully agree with that.

[861] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That would be fair, right?

[862] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[863] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that would also be fair to Ms Khan, right?

[864] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[865] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because Ms Khan would be entitled to say, “Actually, I came to you, the very people who are now judging me, I came to you for guidance, for counselling, for advice” and these are the very same senior Party members of the Workers’ Party, right?

[866] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[867] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, would you not accept, Ms Loh, that the circumstances in which this DP was set up is far from usual, in fact, highly suspicious?

[868] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don’t know if I would use the word “suspicious”. If I were to give my own take on it, I feel that perhaps the three did not realise the severity or the consequences that would follow after her statement in Parliament, I mean, after her 1 November statement, and that they felt necessary to then take this action to form a Disciplinary Panel.

[869] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But, Ms Loh, we talked about it earlier. Just to recount: even after 3 August, there were already some commentaries, some editorials. I can show them to you if you like.

[870] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I’m aware of them, yes.

[871] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that’s three months prior to this statement.

[872] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I understand that.

[873] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then, in October, if nothing else, there was at least in the minds of these three individuals, they knew that what she was saying in Parliament on 4 October was false, and these are the very same people looking into those falsehoods and deciding what to do with her. That’s highly unusual and, as I have said, quite suspicious, right?

[874] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I would say “highly unusual”. I don’t know if I would use the word “suspicious”.

[875] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You said that Mr Singh messaged you ahead of the statement being issued on 2 November.

[876] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[877] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give us a broad gist of that discussion?

[878] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It was literally just two messages. He said to me, “This is happening”, and then I said, “Okay, I trust the Party leaders.” I mean, I trust that the DP would make the right decision, yes.

[879] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you discuss this with anyone else, in particular, Ms Khan and Mr Nathan?

- [880] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I believe I told Mr Nathan.
- [881] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was his reaction?
- [882] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** He was also surprised.
- [883] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** For the same reasons we've just been discussing?
- [884] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know what his reasons are, but, I suppose, similar, yeah.
- [885] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What did he say to lead you to believe that he was surprised?
- [886] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't recall exactly, but – yes, I can't recall exactly.
- [887] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you would have those messages. So, could you please also make them available?
- [888] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.
- [889] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. This DP, since it was set up on 2 November, we understand has now concluded its work. Were you in any way aware of what happened, who was called, what was discussed, what documents were produced to the DP?
- [890] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** So, at some point after the announcement of the DP, as a member of the Workers' Party, I received a text message stating that the panel is now inviting comments from members of the Workers' Party and that they can sort of arrange a time to meet with the DP. I don't know who has met the DP specifically, but I have – I personally made a request to meet the DP on 25 November.
- [891] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You met or you made a request to meet?
- [892] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I met them on 25 November.
- [893] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you outline what happened at this meeting?
First of all —
- [894] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I gave them my honest thoughts on everything.
- [895] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Hang on, we'll come to that.
- [896] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [897] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But, first of all, where did this take place?
- [898] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Workers' Party headquarters.
- [899] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What time?
- [900] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** My session was at 8.30.

- [901] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In the morning or evening?
- [902] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Oh, pm.
- [903] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Evening. Who was present?
- [904] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mr Nathan was with me and the three DP members, yes.
- [905] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you went to see the DP jointly with Mr Nathan?
- [906] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** That's right.
- [907] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And did you and Mr Nathan discuss ahead of time what you were going to say?
- [908] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** We did.
- [909] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You did. Can you go into the gist of those discussions, please?
- [910] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I gave the DP my very frank opinion, which is —
- [911] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sorry, what I meant to say was: tell me what you and Mr Nathan discussed first, before telling me what you told the DP.
- [912] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** What we discussed was exactly what we told the DP.
- [913] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see. Okay, then please go ahead and tell me what you told the DP.
- [914] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** We came prepared with quite a number of points. The first point was—I mean some context, we had a feeling that one of the decisions that they might make would be to expel Ms Khan from the Workers' Party, because that was what we had seen online and amongst chatter amongst members of the Workers' Party. That's what we knew a lot of people had on their minds. I mean, as you can see, a lot of newspapers also called for that. So, we went in to try and prevent them from doing that, I guess, not prevent, but to give them our reasons for why they should not do that.
- [915] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What were your reasons?
- [916] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** One of the reasons I gave was everybody makes mistakes and while hers was very severe, other WP MPs have also made mistakes and that expelling her would set a very bad precedent because then you would have, basically, expulsion or resigning from the post would be the only option. So, those were one of my reasons.
- [917] Another reason I gave was that – and this is also my personal opinion – I think it's very irresponsible to leave a seat in Parliament unoccupied because, the way I saw it, no matter how the other MPs are rotated, it felt like Compassvale residents would not get the proper representation that they deserve, and that is my personal opinion.

[918] I also told them that the CEC and, especially the DP, should tell the public the true timeline of events which I have shared here today – when they knew, what courses of action they took. I told them, “You should make this public knowledge, barring confidential and personal information”, meaning details of Ms Raeesah Khan’s life and things like that. I also shared with them my personal opinion of her, that she’s a good, kind-hearted, compassionate person and that that was something to be noted for and accounted for.

[919] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. Did Mr Nathan make the same points or were there other —

[920] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, we made it together.

[921] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You both had a consensus on these points?

[922] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[923] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On your last point about the timeline, the reason you raised that is because this would be in the spirit of frank, open, transparent and —

[924] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, I believed that.

[925] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right? And that is necessary for the people in the public to know.

[926] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I fully agree with that, yeah.

[927] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And not disclosing it suggests an agenda that would be unusual?

[928] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I wouldn’t say it suggests an agenda that was unusual, but I think it’s highly unfair to Ms Khan, yeah.

[929] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And also less than honest to the public?

[930] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, yes.

[931] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What were the questions asked of you and Mr Nathan by the panel?

[932] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** They didn’t ask us questions. We went there to tell them our opinions.

[933] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, they just sat there in silence?

[934] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, they disagreed with some of the things I shared.

[935] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you explain?

[936] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I gave them, in my opinion, which I said if Ms Raeesah Khan were to be expelled from Sengkang or from the Workers’ Party, that the remaining three

Sengkang MPs should step down and re-run the entire GRC, and that is my personal opinion, which Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Pritam Singh disagreed. And Ms Sylvia Lim did bring up an anecdote about, I believe, the Motion that Ms Thio Li-ann put up in Parliament many years ago.

[937] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To explain why it ought or it need not be a natural consequence of one MP stepping down for the entire GRC to step down?

[938] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, basically, that it's disproportionate to by-election the whole GRC.

[939] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What else did they comment on or disagree on to you or Mr Nathan?

[940] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Well, I did tell – I also did mention to Mr Pritam Singh that – I mean, it's a connected point. So, I told him, "You should tell the public the truth, or at least relay a timeline of the events", because it shows his involvement in the proceedings, I mean, of what has happened, and that – sorry, I'm trying to collect my thoughts.

[941] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sure.

[942] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** And I told him that he has a degree of responsibility on what transpired on 4 October because he's the Leader of the Party and Leader of the Opposition, and he could have made a clarification then if he wanted to, and I think it's important the public knows that.

[943] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you say "tell the public the truth", to make a clarification, you mean about his own level of involvement and knowledge and that of Ms Lim and Mr Manap as well, the three members who are on the panel?

[944] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know if I would agree that he would have shared all of that with Parliament on 4 October, but I definitely do think he should have said something.

[945] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At least, if nothing else, at the very latest point in time, at the time you set up the panel comprising the very three members who knew about the falsehoods early on and who knew that it was repeated on 4 October, right?

[946] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[947] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's what you mean by "tell the public the truth".

[948] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, at some point, basically.

[949] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Well, certainly before the point at which the DP has concluded its findings, which seems to have been done yesterday or a couple of days ago, right?

[950] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. Sorry, I was trying to recall the point I was trying to make. So, when I shared with Mr Singh my thoughts, he had a disagreement with me that he gave her a choice on 4 October, which is him saying, "I won't judge you." Yeah, he reiterated that. So,

he disagreed with me in the sense that he didn't think it was explicitly his responsibility to step up and clarify.

[951] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, he's saying that despite knowing that what was said on 3 August was untrue, is false, he was prepared to sit back and listen to another of his Party members, in Parliament, in answer to questions by a Cabinet Minister, repeat the falsehoods, perpetrate the untruths two months later, and that was a choice he was prepared to make as Leader of the Party? Is that an accurate summary of what he said to you?

[952] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know if that's an accurate summary, but, as I said, when he says to her, "I will not judge you", he should have prepared for an either/or consequence.

[953] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meaning he should be prepared that if this thing results in an inquiry, like it has done now, that he should be prepared to step up and accept responsibility for his role and knowledge? Is that what you mean?

[954] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[955] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you made the point about coming clean to tell the public the truth, what was the reaction of the other two members of the panel?

[956] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** They didn't say anything. They just nodded their heads and jotted down what I said.

[957] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** They didn't disagree with you?

[958] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No.

[959] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright.

[960] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** They didn't say anything, so I don't know if they agreed or disagreed.

[961] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is there a recording of what happened? Who kept notes of what happened at the —

[962] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** There was no recording, like no phone or whatever, and I didn't see anyone taking minutes, but all three were taking notes.

[963] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, they had their own notes?

[964] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah.

[965] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And did you come prepared with something in writing? Did you give something to them?

[966] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** So, it was kind of like in my phone and in my head and then I had to put my phone away because they didn't allow me to bring my phone in, so, I jotted it down on a paper. But I have thrown that away already.

[967] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, all right. So, what you've given us is as best you can remember of the account?

[968] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, correct.

[969] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But it's likely that the Workers' Party DP would have kept notes of what you said to them?

[970] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I'm not sure, yeah. I don't know to what extent – I mean, how thorough their notes are.

[971] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but you did see them taking down some notes as you were speaking?

[972] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah.

[973] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. A few more questions on the DP. Do you know who else went before the DP to give, because you said that there was a message you received to come and give their comments to the DP, right?

[974] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know who else went to the DP.

[975] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When did you receive this message?

[976] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** SMS?

[977] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. When was it?

[978] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** When? I can't remember.

[979] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** A day or two after 2 November, or was it closer to when you met with them, which is 25 November?

[980] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't remember but I can go and check my phone.

[981] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That will be useful, thank you. Going back to my earlier question, do you know if any other activists, volunteer or cadre member went to see the DP?

[982] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No. To my knowledge, the DP is strictly for members.

[983] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Did Ms Khan see the DP?

[984] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** To my knowledge, yes, she – I mean, she didn't – she wasn't one of the – I mean, she's the subject of the inquiry, right? So, I think she did meet the DP at some point. But I don't think she went there as, like, in response to the call for members to meet with the DP.

[985] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Did she share with you what was discussed at the DP?

- [986] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, not in tremendous detail.
- [987] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Tell us what detail she gave you. First of all, when did she see the DP?
- [988] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I know that, again, I don't know, I'm not privy of the exact timing and day and things like that. But at some point, she did meet the DP. I believe she met them twice. The first one, I'm not sure when, and I also—sorry, I'm not fully aware of what exactly was exchanged. I think they just had—from what she shared with me, there were some questions and she had gone in to like answer them. I know she met again on the day—I think she met them actually this Monday, the Monday that is just past.
- [989] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That would have been the –
- [990] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** On 29 November.
- [991] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. Are you aware of the contents of the discussion that she had with the DP?
- [992] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She shared with me, yes.
- [993] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Orally or by messaging?
- [994] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Orally.
- [995] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give us a gist of what happened?
- [996] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She said that they were strongly encouraging her – okay, I mean, I don't know if I'm making this up, not that I'm making things up, but I want to be careful with the words that I use because I wasn't part of this conversation, it was second-hand information.
- [997] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Ms Loh, you're right in being careful. So, I thank you for that.
- [998] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [999] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But what we want you to do is just to recount what she said to you.
- [1000] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I know, I know. I think she said – I mean, she was quite emotional on the phone. Okay, that's first of all. And, second, she said that they asked her to think about resignation, yeah.
- [1001] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was her reaction to that?
- [1002] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She was very, very upset.
- [1003] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she was upset because she —
- [1004] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** At that point of time on Monday, she had not wanted to resign.

[1005] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, in fact, the thrust of your submission to the DP was why she should not be expelled —

[1006] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[1007] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — or made to resign, right?

[1008] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1009] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because you felt that, well, besides the reasons you've given, people make mistakes, you also felt that this was something where the senior leadership had been aware and she had acted, if not based on their advice, at least with their acquiescence and their knowledge?

[1010] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1011] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right? So, those were the reasons why you felt that she should not be expelled, and I —

[1012] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I mean, many reasons, as I said, like, one, I think it's not right to leave the residents of Compassvale unrepresented in Parliament. Second, that they were involved, in the sense that they had knowledge of—the lie is her mistake, yes, but, thereafter, they are involved. And, as you said, it's like, a few months' worth of back and forth sort of thing.

[1013] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And these few months of back and forth, at least these three members of the DP were intimately involved?

[1014] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, at least the three of them knew.

[1015] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not just “knew”, but I think they were intimately involved, because they knew what was happening shortly after 3 August and they also gave comments and crafted a statement on 1 November.

[1016] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know if Mr Faisal Manap was involved in the crafting of the statement. I only know that at least Mr Singh and Ms Sylvia Lim were involved, yes.

[1017] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, what I have just said applies certainly to Mr Singh and Ms Lim, but not so sure about Mr Manap, right?

[1018] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1019] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was Ms Khan's reaction to being asked to think about resigning?

[1020] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She was, as I said, very, very upset.

[1021] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But we now know that she has done so.

[1022] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1023] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you spoke with her on the phone, you said she was emotional.

[1024] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1025] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** From your perspective, I'm not asking you to read her mind per se, but, from your perspective, from what she said and how she sounded, did you think she felt pressured to resign?

[1026] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I don't think she felt pressured.

[1027] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But in the context of a discussion like this – and again let me paint the context – there was a falsehood, yes, it's a mistake; discussed with senior Party leaders, discussed with Mr Singh before 4 October where she expected to face questions, further questions on this; he was in Chamber; meeting at his home on 12 October; discussions thereafter on what to do; no mention of consequences, no mention of a DP, in particular; and, certainly, no mention of “you having to step down and resign”; in that context, I'm saying, would she not have, at the very least, felt unnerved or affected by the suggestion that she should now resign and, with that, signal that she should take responsibility for what has happened entirely?

[1028] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She was definitely unnerved. But I think they were also careful to not instruct, which is why I think I said that the resignation was something she should consider. But I think even an acknowledgment that that is something that she should do or consider taking, was very disappointing to her.

[1029] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And unexpected?

[1030] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I wouldn't say “unexpected”; as I said, because a lot of people have been calling for her resignation.

[1031] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but these “a lot of people” are, basically, outsiders. They are people in the press, people in the media, third parties. I'm focused on the people who actually knew what was happening. In that context, given what had transpired, from Ms Khan's perspective, it would have been unexpected?

[1032] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Again, I wouldn't use the term “unexpected” because it was something that I think people knew were on the cards, even Ms Khan herself, but I think she felt very let down. Again, this is an assumption of how I think she felt.

[1033] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course. She will come and give evidence as well and we will ask her that, too.

[1034] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1035] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But it's useful from your perspective and I thank you very much for that. I just want to confirm, too, that she had not discussed or broached the subject of either having a disciplinary inquiry or panel or having to step down. That was not something that she had told you was discussed between herself and Mr Singh or Ms Lim or Mr Manap, correct?

- [1036] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Discussed as in like prior to her statement?
- [1037] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Prior to her statement.
- [1038] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, it was all new.
- [1039] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. When Ms Khan went before the Disciplinary Panel and, as we saw, the panel was set up to look into the false statements – and I’m paraphrasing – false statements and her admission of the false statements, and what now to do with her, that’s the thrust of the panel’s terms of reference, as it were, right?
- [1040] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.
- [1041] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would not one answer by Ms Khan be that, “Hey, why are you asking me this? You all knew all along what has been happening?”
- [1042] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I mean, I don’t know what she thought about it. But – oh, actually, I do. Sorry, I’m just recalling now. I think when the DP was —
- [1043] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you share that with us?
- [1044] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** When the DP was convened, she expressed surprise.
- [1045] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And can you elaborate?
- [1046] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I suppose she didn’t – again, I don’t want to be putting words in her mouth but I think, maybe, to some degree, she felt a bit betrayed because, again, there was no inkling that it might happen.
- [1047] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, I mean, no inkling that it might happen and you said “betrayed”, presumably because you felt that since she’s been involving them —
- [1048] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She had been transparent with them from the start, yes.
- [1049] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — open to them, yes, transparent, in your words, open, consulting even, getting advice on what to do, meeting at his home, and then, suddenly, to see that there’s an inquiry culminating maybe a few days ago in —
- [1050] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don’t know if she met at his place, but they had meetings.
- [1051] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you did?
- [1052] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I did.
- [1053] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But she might have. But culminating in a suggestion to consider resigning was certainly the backdrop to why you say you think she felt betrayed?
- [1054] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1055] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can I ask you to please look at the statement issued by the Party.

[1056] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** This one?

[1057] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Maybe the Clerks could assist me, please. The statement issued by the Workers' Party on the – there isn't a date but I think this is —

[1058] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Oh, it's the same one.

[1059] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — 30 November, right? Do you have a copy with you?

[1060] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** The 2 November statement?

[1061] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, 30 November.

[1062] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't have that. This is the 2 November statement.

[1063] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** 30 November.

[1064] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** This is two; both are the same. I need the 30 November. I presume you're referring to WP's statement on her resignation?

[1065] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, that's right. Do you have that?

[1066] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I don't have it. This is the Disciplinary Panel —

[1067] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I think the staff will give you a copy. [*A statement was referred to.*]

[1068] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, that's the one, thank you.

[1069] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, Ms Loh, you would have seen this statement?

[1070] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I did.

[1071] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's a short statement. It just says that she has resigned from the Party.

[1072] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1073] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It talks about the CEC meeting on 30 November, which I think you also referred to earlier.

[1074] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1075] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then it talks about Ms Khan, at 4.30 pm on 30 November, indicating her wish to resign, and then a Party press conference that will be held on 2 December.

[1076] So, the circumstances that we have just been discussing in relation to the calling of the DP, her intentions, her thinking and so on, the background information, all of that should be read in the context – rather, this statement ought to be read in the context of all that has happened to fully understand why it is and how it is that Ms Khan has now come to resign from the Party, right?

[1077] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1078] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you have any knowledge in relation to why she decided to resign at 4.30 pm on 30 November before the CEC meeting?

[1079] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I do.

[1080] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could you share that with us, please?

[1081] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't remember if she had called me or I had called her earlier that day, but I think we had a phone call and she had expressed to me her desire to resign. And I tried to discourage her from it again and again, because I've told you all the reasons why I think it was not the correct thing to do. But I think she felt that she just couldn't continue with the knowledge that she already had.

[1082] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The knowledge that she had, can you be a bit more precise what is that?

[1083] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** The knowledge that she had been asked to consider resignation.

[1084] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, that was a key factor for her?

[1085] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, and definitely her final – like, her decision to resign is definitely hers alone.

[1086] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[1087] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1088] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But we would say influenced by a key factor, which is —

[1089] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I would say it was influenced.

[1090] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, I mean, put it this way, Ms Loh, whether you're an employer or an employee, or a member of a Party, if the employer or the Party has signalled that you should consider resigning, I think that's a very powerful statement, right?

[1091] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, and I think, for her, she felt like she no longer had the support needed to continue, and which is why she decided to resign.

[1092] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. And, so, she decided to do it even before the CEC met?

[1093] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1094] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you know what happened at the CEC meeting on 30 November?

[1095] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I don't know. I mean, I know basically what's here, that she met them, she said, "I would like to resign".

[1096] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I know it's been a while and I'm sorry to keep you here.

[1097] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It's okay.

[1098] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Just a few more questions to wrap up, so that we are clear on the facts, okay?

[1099] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1100] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On Ms Khan's involvement with the DP, I just want to get the dates right, so that I'm clear. The DP was set up, or at least announced on 2 November, and then you told me that, at some stage, there was a mass notice to Members to come and give statements, and you don't know who and how many went to give statements, right?

[1101] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1102] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you do know that Ms Khan went to the DP on two occasions.

[1103] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, she met the DP on two occasions, yes.

[1104] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is it two or at least two occasions?

[1105] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** At least two.

[1106] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At least two. Would you be able to give me the rough dates? If you don't know them now, presumably, you might have been told by Ms Khan, before she went, that she was going, and you might then be able to see a message trail?

[1107] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I will have to go and look at my messages.

[1108] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could you please do that so that we have a timeline for this, okay?

[1109] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1110] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you and Ms Khan discuss what materials she should prepare to go for this meeting with the DP?

[1111] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Did me and Ms Khan discuss?

[1112] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[1113] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think she was asked to provide some evidence and I had met up with her on Deepavali. It was a public holiday and I knew she was feeling really down, so I offered to visit her at her place. And we briefly discussed it, where I know she was asked to provide some evidence. That was the discussion we had about her first meeting with the DP.

[1114] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What kind of evidence was she asked to produce?

[1115] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I think about why she lied and anything related to perhaps the support group.

[1116] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But what's the nature of this evidence going to do for the DP when the DP already knew that she had lied and she had given a statement and she repeated it on 4 October?

[1117] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I'm not sure.

[1118] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you help her to prepare any notes of what she would say? *[Interruption.]* Okay. Sorry. Can I offer you any water?

[1119] **Mr Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, please.

[1120] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could you help her with some water? Thank you.

[1121] Sorry, Ms Loh, you were in the middle of an answer. I asked you, just to repeat, what's the nature of this evidence going to do when the DP already knew that she had lied, given the statement and repeated it on 4 October?

[1122] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** My answer, I think, was I don't know.

[1123] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I had to ask you again because they didn't capture the answer.

[1124] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[1125] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then, you mentioned that you met her at home on Deepavali, which I've ascertained to be 4 November?

[1126] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1127] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, by 4 November, she knew she was going to be facing this DP but had not yet seen them?

[1128] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. Correct.

[1129] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But by that time, she had already been asked to produce evidence, right?

[1130] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. Correct.

[1131] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you know how they communicated with her to produce this evidence?

[1132] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I believe it was by email.

[1133] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** By email. Okay. And did she share the email with you?

[1134] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, she didn't. She just told me.

[1135] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And roughly, if you can remember, how long after 4 November did she go and see the DP?

[1136] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't remember.

[1137] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** After she saw the DP for the first time, did she discuss it with you? Did you get a debrief?

[1138] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I can't remember. I will have to check.

[1139] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun:** Okay. And then, she had her second meeting before or after your 25 November meeting with the DP?

[1140] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** After.

[1141] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun:** After?

[1142] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. As I said, she met them, I believe, on the morning of 29 November, Monday.

[1143] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun:** I see. And that was the second meeting?

[1144] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1145] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun:** You're not aware if there might have been a third one before 29 November?

[1146] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. No, I'm not aware. Am I allowed to add something?

[1147] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun:** Yes, of course.

[1148] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** A lot of the things that I'm sharing here today is shared with me by Ms Khan in my capacity as a friend and a confidant, yes, and I believe that, technically, I'm not supposed to know a lot of these things.

[1149] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun:** Yes. I understand the context in which it was shared with you. But here, in the context of this question that we are tasked to look into, we do have to evaluate the factual circumstances.

[1150] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I understand.

[1151] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And we do have to reach conclusions on them. So, what you share with us will be helpful for us to reach a holistic view on this.

[1152] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I mean I want to be as truthful as I can but I'm just clarifying that.

[1153] **The Chairman:** Just to reinforce the point. We are fact-finding for us to understand the circumstance because, as you are aware, what has transpired in Parliament is serious and while she has admitted it, we are also assessing her culpability, are there mitigating factors and so on. So, I think the full context of it, as explained by Minister Edwin Tong, is important for us.

[1154] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I understand.

[1155] **The Chairman:** So, I understand the tensions you might feel because some of these things are shared in confidence but I hope you understand the context why it's important for us to understand so that we can eventually evaluate and ascertain why it happened, how it happened, and I guess the degree to which she bears responsibility for her actions.

[1156] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I understand. It's just, admittedly, I don't feel fully comfortable because, I mean, she trusted me.

[1157] **The Chairman:** I understand and we appreciate what you're sharing with us.

[1158] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, Ms Loh, I just have a couple more questions to ask you and I want to focus on the requests by the Police to interview Ms Khan.

[1159] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm-hmm.

[1160] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Maybe the best thing to do is just show you a document because it's probably shortcuts to the facts.

[1161] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[1162] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could the Clerks assist me, please? [*A press statement was referred to.*] This is a copy of a Police statement issued on 20 October.

[1163] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Thank you.

[1164] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It sets out some dates in there. Just to refresh, 3 August was the Parliamentary Sitting; 4 October was the exchange with Minister Shanmugam. And then, it goes into the fourth paragraph here and says that there is an email sent on 7 October and again on 15 October, inviting Ms Khan to get in touch with the Police for an interview.

[1165] Pausing for a moment, were you aware of this at the time it happened?

[1166] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, she did share with me that the Police had emailed her.

[1167] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there a discussion on what the appropriate response ought to be?

[1168] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I mean, I had just reacted not necessarily like, “Oh, my gosh”, but like, “Oh, no”, that kind of thing. But beyond that, I can’t recall if we discussed it, but I think I might have suggested that she should go and find a lawyer, yes.

[1169] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not necessarily the best thing to do always.

[1170] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** As a friend, it was like “there’s absolutely nothing I can do to help you at this point, so, somebody who is more professional in this would be better”, yes.

[1171] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But was there a discussion on what she should do, when should she see the Police? Did she respond to this?

[1172] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I didn’t discuss that with her.

[1173] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see.

[1174] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I just said, “Go lawyer up.”

[1175] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you know if she discussed it with anyone within the Workers’ Party?

[1176] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I believe later on she did inform Mr Pritam Singh. Yes. At some point, she told me she shared it with him.

[1177] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. Do you know what his response was to this?

[1178] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I don’t know.

[1179] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Is there any reason that you can shed light as to why she didn’t respond to the two Police emails?

[1180] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, I can’t. I don’t know why she didn’t respond.

[1181] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Alright. Thank you.

[1182] Thank you, Mr Chairman, I have got no further questions for Ms Loh. Thank you very much, Ms Loh. I appreciate that you’ve been trying your best to help us with the details and I appreciate it very much.

[1183] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1184] **The Chairman:** Minister Grace Fu.

[1185] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you very much, Ms Loh. If you allow me, I will actually refer to something that you said earlier on, quite early in the process. I will just repeat what you’ve said and captured here. Please let us know if it’s not captured accurately. This is in response to your Zoom discussion with Ms Khan as well as Mr Nathan.

[1186] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm-hmm.

[1187] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** “She told us that she had lied because she was once a victim or survivor herself of sexual assault. She relayed to us that this has happened when she was overseas when she was 18 and that she had sought, I guess, to heal from this episode by attending support groups and that’s when she learnt of this anecdote.” Without going into specifics about her circumstances, did she share with you whether this support group was actually held in Singapore or in the US because I understand that what has happened to her actually happened in the US?

[1188] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don’t know if it happened in the US, but I, surprisingly, have never asked her that question. But, sorry, I lost track of my thought there. But, yes, the support group is in Singapore.

[1189] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, you have, actually, in her discussion, confirmed with her that she has attended support groups in Singapore?

[1190] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Mm-hmm, correct.

[1191] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you.

[1192] **The Chairman:** Mr Zaqy.

[1193] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Thanks so much for your statements earlier. I just have a couple of questions which I thought would give us a better sense of her thinking and her reflections.

[1194] We have already established the part that confidentiality was not necessary for her to put forth the case that she wanted to make and, therefore, in doing that, made a false statement. But in the last General Election, she also raised another point about the Police on how they discriminated against certain segments and race. Do you know whether there is an agenda in her mind against the Police or agencies of law or people to do with the law, and then, whether that was an agenda that motivated her enough to tell this lie?

[1195] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, no, there’s no agenda. She really just wanted to help sexual assault victims.

[1196] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Okay. But there’s a certain pattern that you see, the Police and the law.

[1197] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I understand. Yes, but my understanding of her character and her personality and having worked with her over the last one-and-a-half years, that was not her agenda.

[1198] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Okay. The second question I had was: between 7 and 8 August and before 1 November, was it ever in her mind, before the Disciplinary Committee spoke to her about resigning, that resignation or coming clean would be something to do?

[1199] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry, I don’t fully understand.

[1200] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Did she at any point before she was asked to resign by the Disciplinary Committee ever considered coming clean before being forced to come clean on 1 November or to consider resignation as an act because —

[1201] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Right, before 1 November?

[1202] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Yes.

[1203] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** At some point of our discussions between just me and her, I felt the stress that she was feeling and I did tell her that, as a friend – and I said this completely as a friend – I said, “If it’s too much to bear you can resign”. Yes, but she immediately said, “No” and she said, “That’s not the right thing to do”, like she wanted to do the right thing for her residents and that she should come clean, yes.

[1204] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** And in her view in saying that, she does not feel that a failure to be truthful and honest and not living up to the expectations, in terms of integrity, as a Member of Parliament, a representative of the people, that didn’t occur to her in terms of what she had done is a reflection?

[1205] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don’t think that’s accurate. I mean, definitely, she feels very guilty and she’s very aware that it’s a very serious offence. I mean, I don’t know if I would use the word “offence”, but a very serious thing to do, yeah, and she’s fully aware of that and she feels very bad. My personal take is that, yes, it was definitely her mistake to lie and it was definitely something she shouldn’t do. But it also took a lot of courage for her to come clean on 1 November, knowing that a lot of this would follow and also, at the same time, having to reveal a very private aspect of herself that even her parents did not know until very recently. So, I think that courage stems from her desire to want to do the right thing and also because she probably felt guilty about lying to Parliament.

[1206] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** One part of it was also that sense that she had, that she had the support of the Party and leadership to continue, despite knowing that this is what she’s done so far?

[1207] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I would say that’s true, that she felt that she had this support at the time.

[1208] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** From the leadership in the CEC?

[1209] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, mm-hmm.

[1210] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Thank you.

[1211] **The Chairman:** Mr Don Wee.

[1212] **Mr Don Wee:** Hi, Ms Loh.

[1213] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Hi.

[1214] **Mr Don Wee:** So, the Workers’ Party held a press conference which ended about half an hour ago.

[1215] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Oh. It's in the morning. I didn't know what time it was.

[1216] **Mr Don Wee:** So, during the conference, Mr Pritam Singh actually informed the press that the leadership was aware of the untruth a week after the 3 October Sitting. [A correction was made and found in *Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 3 December 2021, Para No 2497.*] He also mentioned that he had told Ms Khan to clarify in October. So, do you agree with this statement?

[1217] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** So, he told the public that he only knew one week after 4 October?

[1218] **Mr Don Wee:** Yes. And he also told Ms Khan to repeat the untruth and clarify in Parliament in October. However, despite being asked to do so, Ms Khan did not do so. So, Mr Pritam Singh said that a moment ago.

[1219] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** All I can say is, that's very disappointing to hear.

[1220] **Mr Don Wee:** At the same time, he also told the press that he had told Ms Khan to contact the victim and any relevant individuals, as the authorities would be likely to seek clarification from Ms Khan. Did Ms Khan actually tell you that the Party leadership actually told her to —

[1221] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** They might have but I don't know this part.

[1222] **Mr Don Wee:** Thank you.

[1223] **The Chairman:** Mr Dennis Tan.

[1224] **Mr Dennis Tan:** No questions.

[1225] **The Chairman:** No questions. Mr Desmond Lee.

[1226] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Good afternoon, Ms Loh. Just some basic questions.

[1227] There's a gentleman by the name of Mr Lim Hang Ling who is on our agenda sheet, the Legislative Assistant for the former Member of Parliament for Sengkang GRC, Ms Raeesah Khan. Are you aware of this gentleman?

[1228] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. We know him as Mike.

[1229] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Mike?

[1230] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, he doesn't like his Chinese name.

[1231] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. What was his role as a Legislative Assistant, from your understanding?

[1232] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** His role as the Legislative Assistant, I think, it's a bit different from perhaps, PAP MPs'. For WP MPs, the Legislative Assistant primarily looks after groundwork, such as organising events, rostering like house visits, doing estate walks and

things like that. So, that's his primary responsibility. He also, I guess, sometimes assists with following up with estate management matters, for example, just like the dustbin is very full and things like that. He would help relay that concern back to Town Council.

[1233] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Because in the earlier evidence you gave this morning, you mentioned Mr Nathan and yourself principally but made no mention of this Mr Lim.

[1234] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1235] **Mr Desmond Lee:** From your understanding, was he involved in any of these relevant speeches that Ms Khan had made?

[1236] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, not at all. I presume you all haven't met him yet. When you meet him, you will understand he doesn't really get involved at all with legislative work specifically, like Parliamentary work, yes.

[1237] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But in relation to the matters of 3 August and, subsequently, in October, do you know if Mr Mike Lim was involved?

[1238] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, he did not know, yes. He only knew like pretty much when the statement was about to be made.

[1239] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The November statement?

[1240] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, correct.

[1241] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The November statement on 3 November?

[1242] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1243] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. No further questions.

[1244] **The Chairman:** Ms Rahayu Mahzam.

[1245] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Thank you very much for your answers earlier. I just wanted to get some clarification on some points. Just to understand your relationship with Ms Raeesah Khan, you seem to know her very well. You've had a friendship way before she came into politics?

[1246] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Not at all, actually. I did not know her even when she, I mean, we were acquainted for the purposes of the General Election because she was running as a candidate. But prior to that, I was not a friend of hers, we were not personally acquainted, like close friends or anything.

[1247] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** But through the course of work, you actually know her very well and understand her.

[1248] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, through the course of working as a Secretarial Assistant in the last "one-ish" year, yeah, I got to know her pretty well.

[1249] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Okay, I just want to go to the point where, if you recall, she was asked on 1 November by the Leader of the House to explain why she put the untruths and she gave two main points. One was because of her concern of the confidentiality point, that she wanted to protect the people involved and we have established earlier that she didn't actually need to raise that. The second point was the fact that she was also facing her own challenges in terms of facing up to her own experiences. I wanted to ask, in terms of crafting those parts of the speech, are you aware to what extent that came from her and to what extent that came from, say, inputs and feedback from the people who were helping her?

[1250] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry, you are referring to which speech?

[1251] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** The one on 1 November, the clarificatory speech where she gave a clarification.

[1252] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, her clarifications were all her own. Nobody prepared that for her.

[1253] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** She did that on her own?

[1254] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1255] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Okay. I just wanted to get one point which I believe Minister Edwin Tong had elaborated a bit, but you made this point which I wanted to understand a bit better, because you have been asked about the timelines and how you felt very strongly that that should be something that we should openly see and you made a comment about how also it would be highly unfair to Ms Khan.

[1256] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1257] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Could you just elaborate what you meant by that? If it was not disclosed, the full timeline, that would have been very unfair to her. Why did you feel that way?

[1258] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** As I said, this is again my personal opinion and I stress "personal" and "opinion". My belief is Ms Khan's mistake and the extent of her mistake is lying in Parliament on the three occasions. But beyond that, she is not a sole actor in how things transpired. And when she could, when she felt the need to come clean, she had informed leadership of the matter and, therefore, it wasn't like they didn't know. So, I felt that it's not very fair that, on the public level, it looks like everything is just on her.

[1259] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Okay. Thank you very much.

[1260] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Chairman, I have since looked at some of the press coverage of events which the Workers' Party press conference touches, which also touches on the points which I had raised with Ms Loh earlier. So, may I have your permission to put some points to her on that basis?

[1261] **The Chairman:** Yes, please.

[1262] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh, I'm looking at this literally as I speak with you —

[1263] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1264] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — but there are several points which cut across what we had been discussing earlier and I would like to get your clarification on it.

[1265] And this is based on the media reports. CNA reports Mr Singh as saying that: "Ms Khan had repeated the untruth in Parliament in October, despite being asked to clarify the matter then." That's one statement.

[1266] Mr Singh is also quoted as saying and, this is in quotes: "Initially, Raeesah stuck to her untruth in her communication with me." He's also quoted as saying: "After being repeatedly pressed...", which I take it to mean after Ms Khan is repeatedly pressed, "...a number of new facts and disturbing personal revelations were disclosed. These concerned Raeesah's sexual assault, an event which was unknown to the Party leadership at that time, and other related matters of a deeply personal nature... She admitted this to the Party leadership about a week after she had delivered her speech", adding that these personal traumas explained why she had not been truthful in her account.

[1267] Let me just pause there for a moment. Those are the verbatim quotes. Does it cohere with your own sense of what happened when Mr Singh says that Ms Khan "stuck to her untruth in her communication with me"?

[1268] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, it doesn't. And I would like to share, now that I know that this has happened, I would like to share a couple of my thoughts about it. Admittedly, I am not privy to the specifics of the conversation between Ms Khan and Mr Pritam Singh. So, there might be a degree of interpretations of what might have transpired between the two of them and perhaps, in separate occasions, they might have mis-remembered certain things and told me a different account of things.

[1269] But I'm quite sure and I don't know if I already mentioned this earlier. So, while Ms Khan told me on 7 August the truth, I had a meeting with Mr Pritam Singh on 10 August on a separate matter and while we were waiting and poor Mr Yudhishtira Nathan was also with me at this meeting about this other separate matter, we are very good friends, okay. Briefly, Mr Pritam Singh confirmed that he knew, with me. We didn't talk about it explicitly because we didn't want to say it out loud, but I had briefly conversed on the matter with him and his acknowledgment of it suggested to me that he knew. Which is why, I would like to also add that I'm really upset that, that did not get shared with the public.

[1270] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Well, this occasion was not shared with the public. Neither was the occasion prior to 4 October, when Ms Khan went to Parliament to, in the expectation, in your words, when he had a sense that this was going to be raised again. You recall you said that to us?

[1271] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1272] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then he met with Ms Khan presumably to prepare for what to say in Parliament?

[1273] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. Can I just add, whatever Mr Pritam Singh has relayed to me, Mr Yudhishthra Nathan is my witness that I received this information because he received the same. He was present with me on many of these occasions.

[1274] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand and I wanted to add on to what I've just said earlier on the 4 October incident, because Mr Singh is quoted as saying, and I quote from the CNA report that: "Ms Khan repeated an untruth on the Parliamentary record, which was wholly inconsistent with the revelations she had shared with the Party leadership after 3 August. Almost immediately after Parliament adjourned in October, Raeesah agreed with the Party leadership that she had to set the record right forthwith. I shared with her that it was the correct thing to do. The next earliest opportunity to do so was on 1 November."

[1275] Pausing for a moment, this account, assuming this is all that was said, misses out a number of key details, right, that we had discussed?

[1276] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1277] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which would shed light on the internal knowledge of Mr Singh and two other senior members of the Workers' Party, correct?

[1278] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1279] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, in fact, the earliest opportunity to do so was not 1 November, because, as you remember, there were intervening Police emails. He added that: "Ms Khan sent her resignation letter on November 30th." Again, it misses out on some context which we had discussed earlier about the background to how she had felt that she had lost the confidence of the Party and felt that she had to resign.

[1280] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know if she lost the confidence of the Party, but she didn't feel like she had the support.

[1281] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me just quote another portion to you. When asked why the claim was allowed to remain uncorrected, Mr Pritam Singh said, and I quote: "Each Workers' Party MP is a leader in his or her own right and if you have done something wrong, it is your responsibility to set the record right."

[1282] Further on, he is quoted as saying: "But only Raeesah knew the truth of what she had said, and what she had experienced. And it is for her to clarify that on the record. And I think that would have been only adequately communicated through her personally."

[1283] Again, Ms Loh, this doesn't accord with the sequence of events and, in some ways, if I can paraphrase it, the trust that Ms Khan placed in the senior leadership by going to them first, shortly after 3 August.

[1284] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1285] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?

[1286] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Again, I'm not – obviously, I'm very aware now that what Mr Pritam Singh is saying to the public and what I've shared here is very different, especially with

matters before 4 October. I'm not privy to the specifics of the conversation between him and Ms Khan.

[1287] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[1288] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I only have summaries of what transpired, given to me by both of them.

[1289] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand.

[1290] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1291] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But from that perspective and I'm not asking you to second-guess what Mr Singh had in his mind; I'm asking you based on what you know of communications you heard directly from Ms Khan. This would not accord with how the events played out, given what we know about the level of knowledge within the Workers' Party, correct?

[1292] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1293] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'll go on to say that the press then asked Mr Singh some questions, and this is what the report says, and I'll read it to you. In response to questions over why Ms Khan did not follow orders to clarify the matter in October, Mr Singh added, "Why she didn't take heed of that instruction? Why did she ignore it? That is not a question I can answer."

[1294] First of all, to characterise the pre-4 October meeting as an instruction to speak the truth is quite at odds with what I think you had shared with us earlier.

[1295] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1296] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?

[1297] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, and I would like to add a bit to this. When I met the Disciplinary Panel on 25 November, Mr Pritam Singh had tried to relate to me again this episode where he supposedly spoke to her and asked her to speak the truth, and the way that he had talked about it when I met him on the Disciplinary Panel was very different from what he shared with me at his place on 12 October, which is why I would like to stress that the only person who can account for what he said to me in the specifics of "I will not judge you", is Mr Yudhishthra Nathan, because we both heard it together.

[1298] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** All right, I will make a request to the Chairman to call Mr Nathan so that he can testify to that and also corroborate your account.

[1299] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1300] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I want to focus on what you said earlier about the difference between what was said on 12 October, that evening at his home, and what was said at the DP. There was an intervening period of about five weeks.

[1301] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1302] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And what I think I understand from you, which I would like you to clarify, is this: that on 12 October, the position taken was “we won’t judge you”, meaning “we will be behind you, you take a view, and you know, we know”. But on 25 November, that characterisation changed to one where he’s trying to impress upon you and Mr Nathan that, in fact, prior to the October Sitting, he had told her, and in the words of the CNA report, “given her an order” to tell the truth, and that is the difference, correct?

[1303] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[1304] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And if I were to say to you that, based on your impression of your interactions with Ms Khan, the characterisation of the discussion between her and Mr Singh as an order to tell the truth would be wrong, right?

[1305] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Again I —

[1306] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I know you have not heard – you were not privy to the direct conversation.

[1307] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1308] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I’m asking you to judge it based on what you were told first-hand from Ms Khan.

[1309] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. And when he says “I will not judge you”, I think, in his mind, it’s an instruction and perhaps that’s why he’s coming out to say this. But, again, if you take those four words at face value, it could go either way, right?

[1310] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That you have said earlier. But I think there’s a stark difference in the way in which it is being characterised, correct?

[1311] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. So, in my perspective, when he said it to me “I will not judge you”, that he had told her this, he’s saying that, oh, she acted on her own and that was the sense he was giving me. But as a person receiving that information, in my mind, it could go either way, yes.

[1312] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Well, certainly, Ms Khan didn’t take away from the conversation with Mr Singh that there was a direct instruction for her to go and tell the truth the next day, right?

[1313] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct. Yes.

[1314] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If she had, she would have told you.

[1315] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don’t know if that would be accurate to say that if she had, she would have told me, because I didn’t know that that conversation took place —

[1316] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — until later?

[1317] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** — until later, yes.

[1318] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. But let's put it this way. If on 12 October – and just to refresh on the facts – Ms Khan spoke to you or communicated with you and then Yudhishthra and yourself met with Mr Singh at night at his home. If there was an instruction earlier which she breached, that would have been a starting point of that discussion on 12 October, right?

[1319] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[1320] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But that wasn't?

[1321] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, it wasn't.

[1322] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. And I mean you know Ms Khan well.

[1323] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I would say decently.

[1324] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Reasonably well?

[1325] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1326] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And I think you had her well-being in your mind. I think you made that very clear from the start that you are concerned with her well-being, which is correct.

[1327] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1328] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She would have come to you, if not for advice, at least for counsel, if she was told by her Party leader to speak the truth and come clean on 12 October, correct?

[1329] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Given how things had been occurring, yes, I would believe that if she had received the explicit advice prior to 4 October, she would have told me.

[1330] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, and, in fact, if you contrast what happened before 4 October and what happened before 1 November, where her family was concerned, where there were issues about the draft, looking over the draft by Mr Singh, Ms Lim, yourself, Mr Nathan, Ms Khan herself, her family, my point is: going into an occasion like 1 November, where she knew she was going to come clean and had to do so, was quite a different one from 4 October, wasn't it?

[1331] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, it was very different. Obviously, the revelation would be a shock. I think everyone understands that and we understood that the moment she told me the truth, which is why we treated it with great caution and I would imagine that if she received the instruction prior to 4 October, it would have been done the same.

[1332] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It would have been done the same. From all that you know of Ms Khan, had she received the instruction prior to 4 October, what she did on 1 November, she would have done on 4 October?

[1333] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[1334] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She would not have stood there, and you saw the video, quite confidently taking the position?

[1335] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[1336] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see, the reality is, I believe, speaking for myself, that it is not plausible nor believable that Ms Khan acted in this entire sequence of events entirely on her own, without consulting with and getting the advice of senior Party members.

[1337] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1338] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you accept that?

[1339] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1340] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. Thank you, Chairman, no further questions.

[1341] **The Chairman:** Just two simple questions to follow up. Some of it has been covered. Just for my understanding. Coming back again to the statement that Ms Khan made with regard to her own background, which is obviously very personal and difficult to make public, there is really no need to go into the fact that she belonged to a support group, and why she was in the support group was also because of what had happened to her, in explaining the context of why she described the story of accompanying that lady. Would you agree that, really, you could actually recount that whole account without going into your own personal details? Would that be a fair comment?

[1342] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** She could, but it's not the complete truth, right?

[1343] **The Chairman:** So, from your perspective, that was her reason for wanting to raise this whole issue because of her background and, therefore, she wanted to share that part as part of the statement as well?

[1344] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I believe what she shared with me, yes.

[1345] **The Chairman:** Okay, thank you. The other question, again, I guess has been sort of raised by Minister Edwin Tong, really, is this, which has come out in the press conference and you've explained. I just wanted to be clear again that she was told on 4 October to come clean and explain. But, again, from your perspective and your interactions with her and communications with her since and also from your own interactions with Mr Pritam Singh, where Mr Nathan was there as well, you did not get the impression that that was the instruction given for her to actually explain everything on 4 October?

[1346] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah. Again, the only information I have from their meeting on 3 October, I believe, is that he said those five words to her, "I will not judge you".

[1347] **The Chairman:** I understand. I have no further questions. Minister Desmond Lee.

[1348] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Ms Loh, we heard you mentioned Mr Nathan repeatedly and you had gone on various meetings together with him to speak to Ms Khan, whether on Zoom or physically, as well as to meet senior Party leaders and, of course, with the DP. We're hearing his name for the first time. Would you be able to provide his full name and contact details if we do need to contact him?

[1349] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yeah, I can, but may I also be allowed to speak with him about this, because, personally, in the process of everything, I didn't expect to be called up here. But I can understand how that happened because I'm her Secretarial Assistant. But for Mr Nathan, I would like to give him some heads-up, yes?

[1350] **The Chairman:** Ms Loh, as I mentioned earlier, the proceedings in the Committee of Privileges should be kept confidential. I understand your dilemma and we really appreciate the fact that you have been as forthcoming, as honest as you can be, and I understand the emotional burden you bear, because you are trying to share the truth as you know it. But it also means sharing confidential conversations you've had with people whom you've discussed issues with.

[1351] But as I explained, the purpose of this is to understand the context because it is a grave matter and to understand the reasons why Ms Raeesah Khan did what she did. And I think what you have shared has been important and useful, and I think, by extension, Mr Nathan would be able to contribute to that. My own sense is that we would contact him to invite him to come before the Committee of Privileges to also to be interviewed.

[1352] But as with all conversations within the Committee of Privileges, it is meant to be kept confidential. So, while I understand your concerns, what has transpired here should not be discussed with anyone else.

[1353] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I understand. Yeah, I just want to give him a bit of heads-up. I think he will be definitely willing to come. It's just PDPA, I don't want to share his details without asking him first.

[1354] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** May I just suggest this. I know the usual rules, but I also understand Ms Loh's position. And, so, I just wonder whether, Mr Chairman, we would indulge Ms Loh and say you can give him a heads-up that he will be called, but please do not discuss anything else about the evidence we have had, with him.

[1355] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay, noted.

[1356] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Any of the questions, any of the points that you've raised. The reason for this is we also don't want any suggestion that he's been influenced by you.

[1357] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I understand that.

[1358] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's really for the protection of the integrity of the entire process.

[1359] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay. I mean, I'm just trying to do the right thing, but —

[1360] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which we appreciate.

[1361] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I think I can just provide you the details after this. Because at some point, because Yudhish – that is what I refer to him as – we have been involved in this almost from the beginning. We have obviously discussed this between the two of us a little bit. And when it came to my realisation prior to receiving the email from Parliament, I did realise that I might be called to provide evidence. We did animate that perhaps he would need to back me up. So, I think he's willing to come. I won't say he's ready, but he's willing. I can give you his details afterwards. I just wanted to do the right thing by asking him first.

[1362] **The Chairman:** I understand. Alright, please do let him know but, as mentioned by Minister Edwin Tong, perhaps not the details.

[1363] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[1364] **The Chairman:** Would there be any other individuals or persons of interest you feel would be able to contribute to our Committee's better understanding of this —

[1365] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, Mr Yudhishthra Nathan's the only one.

[1366] **The Chairman:** I understand.

[1367] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Mr Chairman, may I raise a point. Ms Loh, you have mentioned in response to Mr Edwin Tong's earlier questions, that you are prepared to produce some material to corroborate the points that you've made and also to help refresh your memory because you didn't take down all the dates and times, and you wanted to be as accurate as you could.

[1368] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[1369] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, whether you could provide that expediently so that we can proceed with the relevant timelines and information?

[1370] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay. Can I just clarify? Can I just share the parts that are only relevant and not, like —

[1371] **The Chairman:** Yes, of course, of course.

[1372] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay, that's all. I mean, I'm 30 years old this year, but our chatter can be quite mindless sometimes.

[1373] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm almost twice your age, and also, as mindless.

[1374] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay. So, I want to keep things private, if I can.

[1375] **The Chairman:** Of course, please do.

[1376] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh, we appreciate that and we respect that. So, we leave it to you to sift through, but please do give us anything that concerns the subject matters that we've talked about.

[1377] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Alright, I will.

[1378] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you.

[1379] **The Chairman:** Any other further questions from Members. There being no other further questions for now, would there be a need for us to deliberate and just hold Ms Loh back temporarily?

[1380] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I think she would not be complete yet until she has provided that side. So, I'd suggest that we don't formally discharge her from the attendance, but, of course, Ms Loh is free to go now.

[1381] **The Chairman:** Okay, alright. This is just more from a formality perspective.

[1382] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I understand. May I clarify how am I supposed to provide this evidence?

[1383] **The Chairman:** Our parliamentary staff will contact you and then, we will give you the instructions of what content we need and the forms and so on. And, of course, with the contact for Mr Nathan.

[1384] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[1385] **The Chairman:** There being no further questions for now, I think we would just like to thank you for coming before the Committee. As mentioned earlier, I know it is not easy, but we appreciate your being very forthcoming. Your sharing with us, I think, has been helpful.

[1386] A transcript of the proceedings will be shared with you for your own verification. So, please do go through it. And if you have any minor amendments, please make the changes and send the transcripts back to us. Please also note that the transcripts and any evidence given to the Committee are not to be disclosed to anyone or published. These must be kept strictly confidential until the Committee has presented its Report to Parliament, meaning that, obviously, you are not to discuss what transpired here with anybody else as well.

[1387] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay. I just want to confirm, not even my family, right? Like not my husband?

[1388] **The Chairman:** Yes.

[1389] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[1390] **The Chairman:** Yes. So, you may withdraw for now, but do please remain in the Parliament House. We don't need to hold you back further because we won't be calling you back later, but should there be a need to at a later date, we will let you know. Our staff will inform you of the relevant documents to be collected.

[1391] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay. So, just to clarify, I have to stay here today?

[1392] **The Chairman:** No.

[1393] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I don't think you need to stay here, but I just wonder whether you could, in fact, shortly after lunch, attend to the documents so that we can have them and we don't have to end up being protracted here.

[1394] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[1395] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, I would really appreciate that if you could do that quickly.

[1396] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[1397] **The Chairman:** So, our staff will accompany you to the waiting room. Once again, thank you very much, Ms Loh.

[1398] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Thank you everyone.

[1399] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you, Ms Loh.

[1400] **The Chairman:** Sergeant-at-arms, please accompany –

[1401] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Do I keep these documents?

[1402] **The Chairman:** You can leave them there.

[1403] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You should not take them with you. Thank you.

(The witness withdrew.)

(The hearing adjourned at 2.18 pm and resumed at 3.07 pm.)

Ms Raeesah Khan was examined on affirmation.

[1404] **The Chairman:** Ms Khan, please take a seat. Thank you. You can take off your mask when you are speaking. For the record, please state your name, occupation and the positions you hold.

[1405] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** My name is Raeesah Khan and I don't hold any positions currently.

[1406] **The Chairman:** Okay. The evidence that you will be giving today before the Committee will be taken on oath. If you so desire, you can also take an affirmation. Clerk, please administer the oath or affirmation.

(The witness made an affirmation.)

[1407] **The Chairman:** Please be seated. The Committee of Privileges is looking into the complaint made by the Leader of the House, Ms Indranee Rajah, against former Member of Sengkang GRC, Ms Raeesah Khan, for breach of privilege. So, thank you once again for

attending today's hearing to give evidence before the Committee and to answer the questions which the Members here would like to put to you.

[1408] You have taken a solemn obligation to answer our questions truthfully and you are under affirmation. And if you refuse to answer our questions directly or attempt to mislead the Committee, such behaviour will be an offence and in contempt of this Committee, which I am sure you are aware.

[1409] I would like now to call on Minister Edwin Tong to raise his questions.

[1410] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Good afternoon, Ms Khan.

[1411] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Good afternoon.

[1412] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you very much for coming to assist the fact-finding for the Committee of Privileges.

[1413] As Mr Speaker and Chairman of the Committee of Privileges has mentioned, the Leader has put in a complaint, I think you are aware of that. Basically, there are two heads to it. One relates to an untruthful statement or statements, and the other relates to a failure to substantiate the basis on which those statements were made.

[1414] This Committee of Privileges has the task of understanding the circumstances, making some findings and, eventually, also recommendations, where appropriate, or sanctions. So, it is important that we understand the matter fully and also understand the relative role and position that you played in the context of how these statements came to be made on the various occasions. Do you understand that?

[1415] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I understand.

[1416] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, I will be asking you some questions. Please answer them directly and, where appropriate, please elaborate and I will invite you to do so where they are relevant. If you think there are other people who might also be able to assist this Committee of Privileges in the fact-finding process, please do raise those with us as well.

[1417] In the course of this session, I will also be asking you if there are any documents, emails, messages, other hard copies and so on which may exist in relation to or arising from the contents of the evidence, and I may, from time to time, ask you to produce them. So, I would be grateful if you could make a small note, if you have a notebook or a piece of paper there, and just keep a record of it. Okay?

[1418] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay.

[1419] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan, a short while ago, there was a press conference by the Workers' Party in relation to the decision that the Disciplinary Panel, the DP, had taken. Are you aware of that press conference? Have you seen it?

[1420] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I've seen it briefly because I had to make a call to my parents, but I didn't watch it or I didn't read any of the news articles.

[1421] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. I've got some articles and I have also just seen them myself. I'm just going to put to you some facts that were stated at the press conference and I am going to ask you for your position on them.

[1422] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay.

[1423] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I will read them to you, because I don't have copies given. I just got them off the press conference earlier today, in fact, a short while ago.

[1424] There was a statement issued by the Workers' Party CEC and it says this: "On 2 November, the Workers' Party CEC agreed to form a Disciplinary Panel (DP) to look into admissions made by Raeesah Khan in Parliament by way of personal statement on 1 November 2021."

[1425] It goes on to talk about the Disciplinary Panel and how you subsequently resigned as a Member of Parliament on 30 November. And it goes on to say, and I quote: "As the CEC had not received her resignation in writing by then", "by then" meaning by 30 November, "it proceeded to deliberate the recommendations of the Disciplinary Panel. The CEC voted overwhelmingly that she would have been expected to resign on her own accord, failing which she would be expelled from the Party." So, this is the position taken in relation to where we are now today.

[1426] In relation to the statements in question, and I will just quickly give you a brief summary, and if, at any point in time, you can't remember the statements you made in Parliament – this is not a memory test – so feel free to stop and I will show you copies of the transcripts. But on the basis that you do remember, I thought we can go faster.

[1427] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay, thank you.

[1428] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, on 3 August, there was a speech that you made in the context of empowering women and, in there, besides talking about your views on how women can be advanced, you recounted a personal anecdote. The anecdote concerns accompanying a 25-year-old survivor to a Police station. Subsequently, you have admitted that that anecdote was false and it never happened. Correct?

[1429] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1430] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In October, there was a further Parliamentary Sitting, and this is about two months after the speech was made. And in October, you had been asked various questions by Minister Shanmugam in relation to details, such as the Police station, which date, what location and some specifics of the occasion. And he also asked you to confirm that whatever you had said had happened, in fact happened, and you did confirm that. And you subsequently also agreed with Ms Indranee Rajah, the Leader of the House, that those statements were also false, correct?

[1431] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1432] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. I would like you to just pause for a moment in October and, in that context, ask you to comment on what was said at the press conference earlier.

[1433] There is a press article from CNA titled “WP leadership knew about Raeesah Khan’s untruth a week after her original speech in August”, and that’s ascribed to Mr Pritam Singh. It goes on to say, and I quote from the article: “Ms Khan also repeated the untruth in Parliament in October, despite being asked to clarify the matter then, said Mr Singh.”

[1434] Pausing there for a moment, can you remember the occasion at which you were asked to clarify the statement before the October Sitting?

[1435] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Before the October Sitting, I had a conversation with Leader of the Opposition, Pritam Singh, and the conversation was that if I were to retain the narrative or if I were to continue the narrative, there would be no judgement.

[1436] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us which date this took place?

[1437] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** 3 October.

[1438] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Where did this take place?

[1439] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** In my house.

[1440] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there anyone else present besides the two of you?

[1441] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, there was not.

[1442] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Are there any emails or messages exchanged as a result of this?

[1443] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, there was not.

[1444] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The discussion for you to retain the narrative and there would be no judgement, can you give me your interpretation of that? What do you make of that statement?

[1445] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** My interpretation was that there would be no consequences for me to continue the narrative that I had begun in August.

[1446] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In other words, there would be no consequences on you if you continued the lie and keep up the contention that there was this occasion, this anecdote that you had described on 3 August, despite it being a lie?

[1447] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes. That was my interpretation. Yes.

[1448] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And there was, therefore, no attempt by Mr Singh to ask you to clarify the matter in favour of putting out the truth?

[1449] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Not at that point in time, no.

[1450] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not on 3 October?

[1451] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No.

[1452] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. This news article goes further. There was, I think, a press statement made by Mr Singh, and then followed, I think, some press questions. And I would just like to draw your attention to a part of the report which is titled “Taking Responsibility”. Let me just read it to you verbatim, and I quote: “When asked why the claim was allowed to remain uncorrected”, and the claim here refers to the anecdote, Mr Singh said, and I quote: “Each Workers’ Party MP is a leader in his or her own right. And if you have done something wrong, it is your responsibility to set the record right.”

[1453] In response to questions over why Ms Khan did not follow orders to clarify the matter in October, Mr Singh added, and I quote, these are his words: “Why she didn’t take heed of that instruction? Why did she ignore it? That’s not a question I can answer.”

[1454] Can I invite you to comment on this, in light of what you’ve just said earlier about the discussion you had on 3 October?

[1455] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think, regardless of the discussion that I had, I agree that it is my responsibility, it was my responsibility to come forth with the truth, and I take full responsibility for that. I think despite advice, I should have taken the step to rectify my mistake then.

[1456] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This contention that there was an order for you to clarify the matter in October, can you give us your view on this?

[1457] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I mean, I’m hearing this for the first time. So, I —

[1458] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you agree with the characterisation that there was an order for you to clarify the matter in Parliament in October?

[1459] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I do not agree with that characterisation.

[1460] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In fact, had there been such an order, we would have expected to see Mr Singh stand up on 4 October or shortly thereafter, and confront you, either directly or through messages, with a question as to why you didn’t follow the order, correct?

[1461] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I cannot assume what he would have done, but that was not what was done.

[1462] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It didn’t happen?

[1463] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1464] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At any point in time shortly after 4 October, did Mr Singh come to you and say, “Why didn’t you follow the order that we agreed on?” Did he say that to you?

[1465] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No.

[1466] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Earlier on, your Secretariat Assistant, Ms Loh Pei Ying, came to give evidence and she explained to us that sometime after 4 October, there was

a meeting which took place at Mr Singh's house at which she and one Mr Nathan, Yudhishtira Nathan attended. You would be familiar with this meeting, right?

[1467] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I was aware of the meeting.

[1468] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the meeting was triggered by an initial conversation between you and Ms Loh either on or shortly before 12 October, correct?

[1469] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1470] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give us, in gist, what happened at that conversation between you and Ms Loh?

[1471] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I can't recall exactly, but I think the conversations were around a statement that I would be making in Parliament, what that statement might sound like and the options that I had.

[1472] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** By that time, had it been settled that you would, at the next Parliamentary Sitting, come clean and admit that the statement was false?

[1473] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, it had not yet.

[1474] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, by 12 October, it had not yet crystallised that you will be making a statement in Parliament that would admit to the falsity of the earlier statement, correct?

[1475] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Sorry, I think I have to rectify that. I think, yes, by the time of 12 October, it was decided that I would make a statement in Parliament.

[1476] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You had decided?

[1477] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1478] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You had decided. So, actually you had decided and that's why that triggered a chain of events in relation to what Ms Loh then told us. She said she went with Mr Nathan to see Mr Singh to manage the process.

[1479] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1480] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What you would say, what impact it will have on your constituents, managing your social media. Those were some of what Ms Loh told us. Would that be correct?

[1481] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, that would be correct. She was very concerned over my well-being. So, hence, that's why she went to Pritam Singh's house.

[1482] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, that is exactly what she told us. She was principally concerned with your well-being.

[1483] Just pausing for a moment from October, Ms Loh also told us that a few days after 3 August, you had informed Mr Singh, Ms Lim and Mr Faisal Manap that the statements made on 3 August were false.

[1484] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1485] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you describe that with some detail in relation to setting out the timeframe, who was present, where these discussions took place, what was discussed and whether there are any documentary evidence or papers which corroborate or substantiate these discussions? So, take your time, if you need to just compose yourself for a minute.

[1486] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thank you. So, the first conversation that I had with any Party leadership that, the first time that I gave any sense that it was an untruth was on 7 August. And it was a short phone call, which then was followed by a meeting at Pritam Singh's house with the Chairman Sylvia Lim and Vice Chairman Faisal Manap.

[1487] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, 7 August, there was a short phone call only with Pritam Singh?

[1488] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1489] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When was this meeting?

[1490] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was a few days after. I'm sorry, but I really can't think of the date, but I think it was the one following Wednesday or Thursday.

[1491] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that would be what, three, four days later?

[1492] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1493] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Roughly?

[1494] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1495] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you said at whose house again?

[1496] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Pritam Singh's house.

[1497] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And at this occasion, Ms Lim and Mr Manap were present?

[1498] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1499] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And did you put it in clear terms to them as well that the statement you had made was false?

[1500] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1501] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could they have misunderstood?

[1502] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, they could not.

[1503] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was their reaction to this?

[1504] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was incredible disappointment. There was a lot of anger, but I think there was some compassion there as well. The reaction was that if I were not to be pressed, then the best thing to do would be to retain the narrative that I began in August.

[1505] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me understand the last statement. You said if you were not going to be pressed, and then you would retain the narrative that you started in August.

[1506] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1507] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It means, “If you can get away with it, we don’t need to clarify the lie”, correct?

[1508] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think in the simplest terms, yes, you are correct.

[1509] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, so, the Workers’ Party leadership was present there. Their initial reaction to being told that there was a lie or falsehood said in Parliament was to try and duck the issue, if possible, and if it doesn’t come up, then the truth may not be told eventually, correct?

[1510] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I have to say, though, that Pritam Singh’s initial response was that I should go to the Committee of Privileges. But after discussions and me explaining the circumstances that led me to the information in the first place, that changed.

[1511] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the upshot of the meeting a few days after 7 August was that the Workers’ Party leadership decided that there would be no need to clarify the position, they will keep the lie in place, since if you’re not pressed, there’s no need to clarify the truth, correct?

[1512] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1513] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there any exchange of emails or documents or WhatsApp chats which would corroborate this meeting?

[1514] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, there would not be.

[1515] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you discuss this with Ms Loh thereafter?

[1516] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did.

[1517] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In those discussions, did you give an account of what happened?

[1518] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did.

[1519] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would that be by messages?

- [1520] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, that would be by messages.
- [1521] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And those messages would capture the thrust of what you had discussed with Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim?
- [1522] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1523] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see you're making a note. So, could you please get copies of those for us, please?
- [1524] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1525] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Those messages would have been contemporaneous, meaning they would have been roughly around the same time as when you concluded the meeting with the three of them?
- [1526] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1527] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. What was Ms Loh's reaction?
- [1528] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I don't remember her reaction by message, but I think when we spoke about it afterwards, there was a sense that the best thing to do would be to tell the truth.
- [1529] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That was Ms Loh's position, to tell the truth?
- [1530] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thereafter, yes.
- [1531] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh told us that she was principally concerned with your well-being.
- [1532] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1533] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that she felt that, in some ways, you had come clean and disclosed it to the senior leadership in the Workers' Party, and she felt that they would then handle the matter and decide the appropriate course. In a sense, leaving it in the hands of the senior members of the Party. In her words, she called Mr Singh a seasoned politician. Would that also have been your impression?
- [1534] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1535] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That would have been the reason why you went to them to tell them in the first place and to get counsel and guidance, correct?
- [1536] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.
- [1537] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At this point in time, did you discuss it with anyone else?
- [1538] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I discussed it with my husband.

[1539] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you also discuss it with Mr Nathan?

[1540] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, yes.

[1541] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could you please describe your relationship with Mr Nathan? What does he do for you, how do you work with him in the context of the Workers' Party's work on the ground? How else do you interact with Mr Nathan?

[1542] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Mr Nathan is a volunteer with the Workers' Party. He has been, I think, with the Party for a while. I met him shortly before I was announced as a candidate and we have become quite close, in that sense.

[1543] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is he someone that you would have discussed the speech with, the consequences of the speech, how to handle the clarifications and so on in the weeks ahead?

[1544] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1545] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, he would be someone who would have quite intimate knowledge of what you went through and you would have shared accounts of your discussions with Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim with him contemporaneously?

[1546] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, together with Ms Loh. So, those discussions all happened at the same time.

[1547] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Ms Loh has told us that you share a three-way WhatsApp group chat with them. That would be one platform on which you discussed this? I assume, right?

[1548] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1549] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh also told us there was at least one occasion where there was a Zoom meeting to discuss what to do and the impact of this.

[1550] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1551] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you describe that? Can you tell us about it?

[1552] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** So, this was after the call that I had with Pritam Singh on 7 August. I wanted to also be truthful to them because of the support that they've given me so far, thus far.

[1553] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[1554] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** And I wanted to explain how I got the information and why I included it the way I did.

[1555] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. This call with Mr Singh on 7 August, can you think carefully, was it initiated by you or by him?

- [1556] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was initiated by me.
- [1557] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** By you. So, you called him?
- [1558] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1559] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In the days that followed the speech made in Parliament, which is on 4 August, were there any other discussions with Mr Singh or with Mr Manap or Ms Lim?
- [1560] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** The reason that the call was initiated, the reason that I called him was because he was pushing for me to validate the information and verify it. And when I realised that I couldn't, that's when I gave him a call and told him, like, why I couldn't. And subsequently, we met in person.
- [1561] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But when you met in person, would that have been the first time you discussed it with him?
- [1562] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1563] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And did you attempt to conceal the truth from him at that point in time?
- [1564] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, I did not.
- [1565] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you told him directly that it was false and you had no way of substantiating it?
- [1566] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1567] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** After this meeting which took place at Mr Singh's home a few days after 7 August, I think we have sort of reached the conclusion on what happened thereafter. What was your next contact with senior Party leadership in relation to this issue?
- [1568] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was after 4 October.
- [1569] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, let me track that timeline because it's about a six-week window.
- [1570] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1571] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you left Mr Singh's home —
- [1572] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1573] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — with the understanding that if it doesn't come up, not pressed, leave it be, so don't clarify, right?
- [1574] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1575] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And in the ensuing weeks, there was no question, no query about the event, so, I guess what you had agreed at Mr Singh's home was carried out. There was no need to proactively do anything about it?

[1576] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I also contracted shingles a week before the September Sitting.

[1577] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[1578] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Therefore, I think that's why it did not come up as well.

[1579] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see. You had shingles around September?

[1580] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, so I did not attend the Sitting.

[1581] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The next time that there was a Sitting would, therefore, have been in October?

[1582] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1583] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And at the start of this afternoon session, you told us that on 3 October, you spoke with Mr Singh. Was that the first occasion after this period, shortly after 7 August, that you met with him on this issue?

[1584] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1585] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Just so that I understand the context and how it works, do you see Mr Singh regularly?

[1586] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, I do not.

[1587] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So —

[1588] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Outside of Parliamentary work, I do not see him regularly.

[1589] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. Is there a group chat that you have with him where he's on it, and are these issues in Parliament discussed in conjunction with other MPs and other activists and volunteers?

[1590] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** We have a group chat with all the MPs. However, this was not discussed.

[1591] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, therefore, the next time this came about was on 3 October. On 3 October, can you describe how this meeting was initiated?

[1592] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was actually initiated because his wife needed to drop some stuff off at my house for my little daughter and he came and spoke to me about this — the upcoming Sitting.

[1593] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the meeting was at your home?

- [1594] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1595] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 3 October?
- [1596] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1597] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us the gist of what he had told you?
- [1598] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think I'll be repeating myself but I shall —
- [1599] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, if there's nothing else beyond what you had said earlier, then that's fine. Perhaps I should be clearer. I asked it in the context of, I know what he said, but I'd like to know what triggered it.
- [1600] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Right.
- [1601] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And I'm assuming it's because Parliament sits the next day.
- [1602] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1603] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And he is expecting that because this is the first occasion you will be back physically in Parliament, that there's, therefore, a risk that this will come up, correct?
- [1604] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I assume that's why he brought it up, yes.
- [1605] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, therefore, the assumption that you had left off with a few weeks ago, that, if not pressed, leave the lie alone, might actually come to be tested on 4 October, correct?
- [1606] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.
- [1607] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, he was discussing with you how, then, one should respond if this came up, correct?
- [1608] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** He was giving advice, yes.
- [1609] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, and his advice, as you said earlier, was, "If you retain the narrative, there will be no judgement on you."
- [1610] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1611] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And we know what you took away from that.
- [1612] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1613] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there any other discussion with him thereafter, either on 3 or 4 October?

[1614] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** On 4 October, I think shortly after the exchange, there was a short discussion on what we should do, what the next steps are, but there was no concrete decision made.

[1615] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. On 4 October – and if you would like to refresh yourself as to what the exchange was, I can show it to you or I can give you the transcript, you let me know – there was an exchange between yourself and Minister Shanmugam. There were some very specific questions relating to details and, eventually, if I can summarise your answers, the thrust of your position was, because of confidentiality, you were not comfortable going into details. Correct?

[1616] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1617] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was that an approach that you had contemplated or that was discussed or had arisen in the context of your discussions with Mr Singh the day before?

[1618] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was a decision that I made because, at that point in time, I was still very afraid of revealing the circumstances of why I received that information in the first place, and also what was going through my mind was that the truth would have a wide impact on survivors out there.

[1619] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, I understand that part of your statement. My question was whether Mr Singh was aware of the gist of what you would say if asked.

[1620] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I'm not sure that he would have been aware.

[1621] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because if the purpose of the discussion, having been initiated on 3 October, was in contemplation or expectation of the 4 October Sitting, and his expectation that the issue might arise, the key question is what would be the response if you are pressed, right? So, it would not have been unreasonable or unusual to have expected that he would have wanted to know what you wanted to say if asked. So, did that come up?

[1622] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** He actually did not ask me how I would respond. He just made that statement, that brief statement, and that was the end of the discussion.

[1623] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, retain the narrative, there would be no judgement on you?

[1624] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1625] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, on 4 October, when you made that statement, at the time you made the statement in Parliament, at least Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim would have known that the statement in Parliament was false? Correct?

[1626] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1627] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, in fact, there were several statements on 4 October which were false, correct?

[1628] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1629] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you mentioned —

[1630] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Sorry, which statements are those?

[1631] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, maybe we should look at the statements, so that we are very clear about that, okay? So, can I invite you to – maybe you can assist Ms Khan. I'd like to look at the 4 October transcript. Yes, the 4 October Hansard I just printed out. [*Singapore Parl Debates; Vol 95, Issue No 39, Sitting of 4 October 2021, Ministerial Statement section.*]

[1632] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thank you.

[1633] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan, can I invite you to just cast your eye quickly over the passages? It's been about two months, so I'd like you to just refresh yourself. Have a quick look and let me know when you are done.

[1634] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thank you, I'm done.

[1635] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, thank you. If you look at page 2 of the transcript, Minister Shanmugam was talking about this in the context of your anecdote. And in the middle paragraph, he says: "She went on to say that the incident happened three years ago and she did not wish to re-traumatise the survivor whom she had accompanied." So, that's the context in which he put the point and asked you for some details. And if you go to page 3, you then said: "Like I said, it did happen three years ago." So, this line that "it did happen" is false, right?

[1636] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It's false that I accompanied this person to the Police station, but as I heard the account at the women's support group, I do not believe that portion is false.

[1637] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, I'm focusing on the point you made in your speech which says you were present and you had accompanied her.

[1638] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I understand.

[1639] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And this is the part which Minister Shanmugam was asking you for details for. If you had said you had heard it from a support group and from a survivor, there would have been no need for these questions because the key thrust of it was the fact that you had accompanied her. So, it is in that context that this statement is false, correct?

[1640] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1641] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it goes on to say: "I have not been successful in getting in touch with the person." This is also false because, in fact, you would not have known who this person was. You were not in a position to contact this person, nor have you, I think, tried to do so, because it's not a person you accompanied, right?

[1642] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1643] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, so, the words “I accompanied” are also not correct. You just cast your eye over the next few lines where you were asked for some details. And, finally, over the page at page 4, you were asked around the middle: “Can I ask through you, Sir, for Ms Khan to confirm in this House that everything she has told us is accurate, that she did accompany such a person and such an incident did happen?” And your answer was “Yes.” That’s false, right?

[1644] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1645] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, in the context of my earlier questions, these were the false statements that I was referring to.

[1646] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I understand now, thank you.

[1647] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, so, my question, to go back to it, was that, as you were making these statements in Parliament, Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim would have been aware, as you were making these statements in Parliament, that they were false, correct?

[1648] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1649] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, thank you. You mentioned that after these statements were made on 4 October that there was a meeting. I don’t know whether it’s physically or through messaging. Can you elaborate?

[1650] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** A meeting with?

[1651] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** With your fellow MPs from the Workers’ Party in relation to what had just happened in Parliament on 4 October.

[1652] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was a meeting in the LO office with Ms Sylvia Lim and Pritam Singh.

[1653] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, just three of you?

[1654] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1655] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us what happened?

[1656] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** There was a discussion on what the next step should be, and that was it. That was the conclusion of the conversation.

[1657] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What do you mean by “next step should be”? What does that mean? Can you give me a little bit more clarity?

[1658] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** We had the discussion around possible Police investigation, the possibility of me being heard at the Committee of Privileges and there was a discussion that – and that was the main gist of the discussion.

[1659] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Earlier on, I referred you to the quote in the press statement today, where it was suggested that you were ordered to come clean on 4 October. So, just to be clear, at this meeting on 4 October itself, there was never any discussion about why you didn't comply with instructions or orders by Mr Singh, or anyone else in the Workers' Party, to clarify the truth, correct?

[1660] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1661] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In fact, it was not even clear in the meeting between yourself, Ms Lim and Mr Singh that you would take the position that you eventually did on 1 November to admit the truth, which is that the statements were false, correct?

[1662] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1663] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, and I'm reading to you from the Workers' Party press statement from today, and I quote: "Almost immediately after Parliament adjourned in October, Raeesah agreed with the Party leadership that she had to set the record right forthwith. I shared with her that it was the correct thing to do." This didn't happen on 4 October, correct?

[1664] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, it did not.

[1665] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In fact, it did not happen until sometime just before 12 October, correct?

[1666] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1667] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because you recall it was 12 October when you made a call to Ms Loh?

[1668] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, correct.

[1669] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, and then that set in motion a chain of events which led to 1 November, right?

[1670] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1671] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, just to be clear, in the context of this paragraph, it was not almost immediately, and it was certainly not at least for another week or so, correct?

[1672] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1673] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would remember that, in Parliament, Minister Shanmugam had said that the Police would reach out to interview you?

[1674] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1675] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, in fact, shortly after this Sitting, they did reach out to interview you.

[1676] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1677] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There was an email first on 7 October and then on 15 October, and if you like a reference point to that, I can show you the Police statement if you can't recall the dates.

[1678] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I think there was another one on 18 October as well.

[1679] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, by the time you had – or, rather, in the midst of making up your mind, you had a request from the Police – two requests at least; three requests, you said?

[1680] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1681] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you bring this up to Mr Pritam Singh or anyone else in the Workers' Party?

[1682] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I did.

[1683] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you seek advice and counsel as to how to deal with this?

[1684] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did, but, by that time, I think we decided or I decided, as well, that the best thing to do would be to make a statement in Parliament describing my actions and why I made that misjudgement in the first place, hence, why I didn't reply the Police.

[1685] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When did you speak to Mr Pritam Singh about the request from the Police?

[1686] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think on the day that I received it.

[1687] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which is 7 October?

[1688] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, yes.

[1689] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** As of 7 October, you would not have had decided that you would come to Parliament to make a statement, correct?

[1690] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, correct.

[1691] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, at that point of time, it was equivocal as to whether you should see the Police to clarify or, eventually, as you decided to come to Parliament to clarify? So, it was not clear as of 7 October, right?

[1692] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1693] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it couldn't have been that you decided that, "Well, since I am going to clarify in Parliament anyway, I can ignore the Police", correct?

[1694] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1695] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, what made you decide, or what made you discuss with Mr Pritam Singh, and how did you all collectively decide not to reply to the Police?

[1696] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think the decision was because there was no reason for me to have to go to the Police station. I think it was a request, and that was what the decision was. That since it was a request, I would not have to go.

[1697] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But to not even reply to the Police? Was that something that Mr Singh agreed with?

[1698] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** That was a —

[1699] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To ignore the Police and to not even reply to the Police?

[1700] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** That was the directive, yes.

[1701] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Who was that directive from?

[1702] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Party leadership.

[1703] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Who would that be?

[1704] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Sylvia Lim and Pritam Singh.

[1705] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not to reply to the Police?

[1706] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1707] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did they explain the reasons to you?

[1708] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, they did not. Yes, they did, but the reasons were very brief, and that was that they could not compel a Member of Parliament or they could not force a Member of Parliament to visit the Police.

[1709] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you not concerned that you were ignoring a legitimate request from the Police arising from a statement that you had made in Parliament?

[1710] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I was concerned, but I was not sure what to do then, and I asked for advice, and that was the advice that was given to me.

[1711] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, so, you went along with the advice given by Ms Lim and Mr Singh?

[1712] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1713] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which was to ignore the Police and not reply to them on the basis that they cannot compel you?

[1714] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1715] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And all of this was even before you had decided that you would clarify the truth with Parliament, correct?

[1716] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1717] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it is not as if, in giving that directive, as they put it to you, to ignore the Police, that the senior leadership of the Workers' Party already knew that you were going to come to Parliament to clarify the truth, correct?

[1718] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Sorry, can you say that again?

[1719] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sure. As of 7 October, when you received the first email and you said you saw Mr Singh at that point in time and you received the directive after discussing with him and Ms Lim, that you will not reply to the Police, you will not accede to their request for an interview. At that juncture, 7 October, you had not yet decided that you would come to Parliament, come clean and clarify that the earlier statements were untrue? Correct?

[1720] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1721] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which, therefore, means that at the time Mr Singh and Ms Lim were giving you a directive to ignore the Police, there is no reason for them to believe that the truth would come out in some other way, correct?

[1722] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I don't know what they assumed or why they came to that decision, because I did not ask.

[1723] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Well, just focus on two things: one, as of 7 October, you told us that you had not yet decided that you would come and clarify the truth with Parliament, right? So, that's still an uncertainty, at best.

[1724] There's a request by the Police to come and give an interview in relation to the matters you said in Parliament. You're not acceding to it, based on the directive from Workers' Party.

[1725] So, I'm saying to you that at least as a result of these two factors, there would have been no basis to assume that the real facts would come out at some stage through some other forum, correct?

[1726] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1727] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It is not as if I am telling you to ignore the Police, because I already knew you were going to clarify it in Parliament subsequently. That's not something that Mr Singh or Ms Lim could have said on 7 October, right?

[1728] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** They did not say it to me, but they might have been thinking it.

[1729] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** They might have thought so but you had not indicated that you will be making any clarifications in Parliament at that point in time, right?

[1730] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1731] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, if, indeed, Mr Singh had, in his words, given you an order to clarify, and he's now saying to the press that he doesn't understand why you didn't comply with that order, had it been an order that you were given to clarify the truth on 4 October – and you didn't do that on 4 October – one other way of letting the truth come out would be to speak to the Police, right?

[1732] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1733] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which he directed you not to do?

[1734] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1735] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can I ask you some questions relating to the circumstances that happened immediately after 1 November? So, I'm going back to that period of time. And I'd like you to just refresh yourself and look at the transcript on 1 November.

[1736] Do you see it? Could you please assist Ms Khan. I'm looking at Hansard for 1 November, at around 2.00 pm [*Singapore Parl Debates; Vol 95, Issue No 41, Sitting of 1 November 2021, Clarification section*].

[1737] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yeap.

[1738] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the first couple of paragraphs were your own personal explanation and I think you would be familiar with that. And, subsequently, the Leader of the House asked you various questions, and I think if we can just go briefly, you retracted your statement, your anecdote. Ms Indranee Rajah brought you through various parts of the statements that were untrue, and I think it's a matter of record that you agreed in those respects that it's untrue.

[1739] Up to this point in time, in your mind, the true state of affairs was known to the Workers' Party senior leadership for something close to almost three months now, right, by 1 November?

[1740] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1741] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you were told that there would be no judgement on you, and you then made your statement in Parliament on 1 November. At any point in time up to 1 November, when you made the statement, was there any suggestion that there would be a Disciplinary Panel set up to look into your conduct?

[1742] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, there was not.

[1743] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you have any inkling, any suggestion that you would be disciplined in this way?

[1744] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, I did not.

[1745] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me ask you to – I think it’s in the same file – look at the statement of the Workers’ Party, in fact, the Secretary-General, on the same day, on 1 November. Do you have it, Ms Khan?

[1746] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1747] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. You probably have seen it previously, but could I ask you to just have a quick read to yourself.

[1748] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1749] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give me your reaction to this statement when you first saw it? First, did it come as a surprise to you?

[1750] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, it did. Actually, this is the first time I’m reading it, because I’ve been on a social media blackout, so —

[1751] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which I can understand. So, can you tell me which parts surprised you from this statement? Let me —

[1752] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Sorry, I would like to rectify, actually it doesn’t surprise me at all.

[1753] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It doesn’t surprise you?

[1754] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1755] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then, can you explain why it doesn’t surprise you at all?

[1756] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Because I think this is something a Secretary-General would say.

[1757] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Does it accord with your sense of the discussions that you had been having with Mr Singh, throughout the almost three months prior to the statement being released?

[1758] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think the gist of it, yes, it does.

[1759] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you would also remember that, a day later, there was another statement that was issued. I think it’s in the same file. I’m not sure you would have seen it, given your answers earlier. So, I would like you to have a look at it.

[1760] The announcement of the formation of a Disciplinary Panel, a DP, you said earlier surprised you. Can you describe your sense when you first found out about this?

[1761] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I was shocked, and I think that was my first reaction, that I was just shocked and surprised.

[1762] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Why were you shocked and surprised?

- [1763] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Because it had not been discussed with me previously.
- [1764] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you surprised that the panel would comprise Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Faisal Manap?
- [1765] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, because they're the leaders of the Workers' Party.
- [1766] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you ask yourself, and you can share your thoughts with us, what enquiry would take place by these three, when these three already were people you confided in much earlier? Did that cross your mind?
- [1767] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, that crossed my mind, but I assumed that they would be doing an in-depth investigation into how the other Members of the Workers' Party would feel.
- [1768] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, can you describe the process? And to give you a sense of the time markers, Ms Loh told us that when she saw this, she was also surprised, or words to that effect, but a few days later, she received an invitation by message, as she's a cadre member, to come and give her views to the DP.
- [1769] And she said she had discussed your attendance as well. She came to your home on Deepavali, which is 4 November.
- [1770] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1771] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she said that you had been asked to produce some evidence. So, this is what we know from Ms Loh, but I'd like to hear from you, from your perspective.
- [1772] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1773] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When were you first approached by the DP, to attend, what evidence were you asked to produce and what did you do to go about collecting that evidence?
- [1774] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I was asked by email and I was asked to produce evidence of me attending the women's support group and to explain why I made the misjudgement in the first place.
- [1775] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you collect the evidence?
- [1776] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did.
- [1777] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And give it to the Workers' Party DP?
- [1778] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did.
- [1779] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You did. And did you provide a written explanation?
- [1780] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did.

- [1781] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there an oral hearing as well?
- [1782] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, there was.
- [1783] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us what happened at this oral hearing? First of all, starting with when it took place and where it took place as well.
- [1784] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It took place at the Workers' Party headquarters and the meeting was specifically on my performance as a Member of Parliament. I think there was not much that they needed to ask about my misjudgement and what happened in Parliament, because they knew in the first place. So, the meeting was centred around my performance, basically.
- [1785] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Your performance, generally, or your performance in conjunction with or in relation to 3 August speech?
- [1786] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** My performance, generally, and then a little bit about what happened in Parliament as well.
- [1787] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Prior to this, had there been any hint that your performance as a Member of Parliament, generally, would be under scrutiny?
- [1788] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, there was not.
- [1789] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There was not, until this occasion?
- [1790] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1791] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But the purpose of this Disciplinary Panel was very focused. It was looking only at the admissions that you had made in Parliament, that what you had said on 3 August was untrue. So, why was there an inquiry, generally, into your performance?
- [1792] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I cannot assume and I did not ask this question.
- [1793] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you were, if I may say, at the centre of this inquiry.
- [1794] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1795] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would have been entitled to ask, "What has this got to do with my performance generally?" Were you not?
- [1796] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I did ask a question to that effect and the answer was that everything is under review.
- [1797] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, this occasion, do you remember the rough date of this meeting?
- [1798] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I can give you the exact details because it's in my emails.

[1799] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. I would be grateful if you could please go back and look at it and produce all the emails which are relevant to this or arising from this DP and any of the evidence that you've collected as well in relation to the request that was made and which you had tendered to the DP.

[1800] Ms Khan, I understand from Ms Loh that there were two meetings, at least, that you had with the DP?

[1801] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1802] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The second of which was on 29 November, is that correct?

[1803] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1804] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that would have been earlier this week, on Monday?

[1805] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1806] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us about it? First of all, how were you notified to attend on 29 November, what time, where?

[1807] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I requested for the meeting myself by email and I was notified by email as well. It was held at the Workers' Party HQ.

[1808] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What time was it?

[1809] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** 10.30 in the morning.

[1810] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And who was present at this meeting?

[1811] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** The Disciplinary Committee, Pritam Singh, Sylvia Lim and Faisal Manap.

[1812] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And what were the purposes for which you had requested for this meeting?

[1813] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I requested for the meeting because I wanted to explain or at least reply to the remarks made in the first meeting on my performance as a Member of Parliament.

[1814] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And did you prepare anything in writing to substantiate your position?

[1815] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did.

[1816] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You did. And can you give us a gist of what was discussed at the meeting and how that concluded?

[1817] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I outlined my successes and even my challenges as a Member of Parliament, including my work on the ground and in Parliament.

[1818] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was there any discussion on what I would have thought would have been the principal concern of the DP, which is in relation to the 3 August speech?

[1819] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** There was, but the discussion was that I had made a mistake and it had cost the Party deeply.

[1820] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And what was your response to that?

[1821] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I agree.

[1822] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And how was that resolved? Was there a conclusion to this? How was it left off?

[1823] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** There was no conclusion. It was—that was towards the end of the meeting.

[1824] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At the time you left the meeting, what did you understand was the state of play concerning the progress of the DP, whether it had come to an end? Had it made a finding? Had it drawn to a close? Had it met all the witnesses it wanted to and so on? What was your sense of that occasion?

[1825] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I sensed that a decision had not been made yet. But after I left that meeting, my personal decision was that I should resign.

[1826] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh told us that one or more of the senior members of the Workers' Party leadership suggested to you to consider resigning from the Party. Is that correct?

[1827] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, that's correct.

[1828] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The statement that was released by the Workers' Party today said that you were given an option of either resigning or you would be expelled from the Party. Was that put to you?

[1829] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** That was not put to me.

[1830] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, at what occasion was the suggestion for you to resign put to you?

[1831] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** At this meeting.

[1832] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 29 November?

[1833] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** On 29 November.

[1834] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did this play a big part in your decision, ultimately?

[1835] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Ultimately, the decision I made was because I felt that it was the best thing for the Party and to retain the integrity of what it means to be a Member of Parliament.

[1836] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you feel that you had been let down by the Party? And I'll explain why I ask this, to give you a fuller picture. Okay.

[1837] We heard from Ms Loh. She was obviously aware that you had met with the Party once. She told us that she and Mr Nathan asked to meet with the Party DP on 25 November and, in the meeting, she came prepared with a list of reasons why it would be wrong for you to resign or to be expelled. She said that she stood up for you on a number of occasions on what you have done and, finally – I'll just check my notes – also made the point to the DP that they themselves should also come clean and disclose that they had been aware of what you told them since August, since about three months ago. And she then told us that, ultimately, when you were told by the Workers' Party senior leadership to consider resigning from the Party, she felt very betrayed – and those are her words.

[1838] So, that's from her perspective. And now, I'm asking you the same series of questions from your perspective. You have gone through this, made a speech, admitted that it was false, it's a mistake but, a few days after that, you had approached the senior leadership and disclosed it to them, in your words, for the purposes of seeking counsel and advice and also, I think, you shared the same approach with Ms Loh in that you told the senior leadership you would leave it to them as to what guidance they would give. You went through the process. You didn't expect there to be a DP but there was. You went through that process, too. And at the end of that, on 29 November, in your words, you didn't think that they had reached a decision yet but yet, at the same time, on that same occasion, they raised the prospect of you considering resignation from the Party.

[1839] So, in that context, my question is: did you feel let down? Were you taken aback?

[1840] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** My thought process after the meeting was that I had made this terrible mistake and that only I can account for it. So, at that point in time, I was not thinking about whether I had been betrayed or whether I was not being supported by the Party. My main concern was that I had affected the integrity of what it means to be a member of the Workers' Party and also a Member of Parliament.

[1841] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. I understand. Thank you.

[1842] Would it be fair to say, Ms Khan, that you placed some stock in the guidance that senior members of the Party would give you – Mr Singh, Ms Lim, Mr Manap – correct?

[1843] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1844] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And I think that's the reason why you went to them in the first place. Correct?

[1845] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1846] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can I ask you to consider this and tell me if you can answer. If they had told you on 4 October that you should come clean and clarify, would you have done so?

[1847] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I would have done so, yes.

[1848] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If they had told you that you should take up the interview with the Police and explain the position and come clean, would you have done so?

[1849] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I would have done so, yes.

[1850] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you did neither because they had told you that there would be no judgement, in the case of the first instance, and that you are under no compulsion in the case of the second instance. Correct?

[1851] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1852] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan, just moving on to a slightly different angle now. Mr Daniel Goh had put up a post in the aftermath of what happened and he said that speeches between Workers' Party MPs were, generally, reviewed by each other before they were delivered and he used the words "collective consensus" on these speeches. Is that something that you are familiar with? Was it practised and, in particular, was it practised in connection with what was delivered by you on 3 August?

[1853] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1854] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the speeches were reviewed prior to it being delivered on 4 August?

[1855] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, but I made some mistakes in that regard as well. I submitted the speeches late.

[1856] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What do you mean by "late"? At what juncture?

[1857] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Two days before the Sitting in August.

[1858] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What kind of timeframe were you supposed to comply with?

[1859] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think it is a week.

[1860] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the rule is that you must submit your speeches a week before the Sitting. And this would be submitted to whom?

[1861] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** We submit it through a portal.

[1862] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm sorry?

[1863] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** We submit it through a portal that everyone has access to.

[1864] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Through a portal. So, who are the people who have access to this portal?

[1865] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** All the sitting MPs.

[1866] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, generally, I'm not talking about 3 August in particular. Generally, what's the process? What's the procedure? How do you vet? How do you give comments? How do you give suggestions? What happens?

[1867] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Basically, you can read any speech that's on the portal and you can give comments and —

[1868] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And do Members regularly do?

[1869] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1870] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Quite actively?

[1871] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I wouldn't say "actively" because I know many MPs are busy.

[1872] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But that's the purpose for which you set up a portal and the rule is seven days before and you cross-review each other's speeches?

[1873] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1874] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In this case, the 3 August speech was filed to support a Motion moved jointly by Ms He Ting Ru and Mr Leon Pereira. Did you discuss it with them beforehand, given that it is their Motion?

[1875] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** All of us discussed this – the topics that we would be speaking about and we were in agreement with the topics we would bring up.

[1876] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The broad topics?

[1877] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1878] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you discuss with them your specific anecdote?

[1879] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, I did not.

[1880] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** By the time you submitted the speech in draft, albeit late, it was still two days before, which, actually, in many cases, it is not late. Did the paragraph on the anecdote already appear in the speech?

[1881] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was inserted, I think, a day before.

[1882] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** A day before it was put into the portal?

[1883] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

- [1884] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, by the time —
- [1885] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Sorry, no. I mean I uploaded the speech and then I added the anecdote a day before.
- [1886] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see. So, it would have been available on the portal at least a day before it was delivered?
- [1887] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1888] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were there any comments or reviews to your speech?
- [1889] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, there was one comment from Pritam Singh, and he asked – and he circled the anecdote, and he put “Substantiate?”
- [1890] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And what was your answer to that?
- [1891] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** At that point in time, I did not understand what that meant but, upon reflection, I understand now why he circled it and why he said what he said.
- [1892] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, did you reply to that comment?
- [1893] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, I did not.
- [1894] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You didn’t. Did Mr Singh raise this as an issue after that speech was delivered on 3 August?
- [1895] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, he did.
- [1896] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And what did he say?
- [1897] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** His comment was that he expressed disappointment in the fact that I did not understand or I did not place importance in why he included the comment that he made.
- [1898] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In the same speech, you also took a position in relation to female genitalia mutilation and also Muslim marriages. Do you recall?
- [1899] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I recall.
- [1900] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you given guidance on these topics or did you discuss them with any other member of the Workers’ Party?
- [1901] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** We all discussed it. We all discussed our various topics with each other at a meeting at some point, yes.
- [1902] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, prior to you drafting it and uploading it onto the portal, there would have been some sense of clarity between the members as to what topics each one was raising?

- [1903] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1904] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you seek any specific advice or guidance on these topics, given that they are fairly discrete and somewhat esoteric areas?
- [1905] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did.
- [1906] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Who did you discuss that with?
- [1907] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I discussed it with Faisal Manap.
- [1908] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Anyone else?
- [1909] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** And Pritam Singh as well.
- [1910] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On these topics?
- [1911] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1912] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. Do you involve your Legislative Assistant, Mr Lim Hang Ling —
- [1913] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Mike Lim.
- [1914] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** He prefers Mike. So, let's call him "Mike". So, did you discuss this with Mike?
- [1915] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No. So, I think we function a little differently. Our Legislative Assistants work primarily on the ground. He has no involvement at all in any of my Parliamentary work.
- [1916] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What about Ms Loh?
- [1917] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** At this point in time, I did not discuss it with Ms Loh.
- [1918] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the speech was uploaded to the portal without Ms Loh's input?
- [1919] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1920] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. On 3 August, after the speech was delivered, can you tell me if Mr Singh approached you to ask you—I mean, given the context again that there was a speech, he had given you a comment to substantiate the very paragraph in question which Minister of State Desmond Tan and, subsequently, Minister Indranee Rajah spoke about, did he pick up the point with you thereafter?
- [1921] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, he did, and I think I mentioned this earlier. This was why I made that phone call with him on 7 August, because he was pressing me to verify the information.

[1922] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did he speak to you on 3 August, itself?

[1923] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, he did.

[1924] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You have the transcript with you, if you would like to refer to it. When Minister Indranee Rajah took you through some questions on 1 November, perhaps I'll refer you to the transcript itself, just so that we are all on the same page. If you look at the 1 November transcript [*Singapore Parl Debates; Vol 95, Issue No 41, Sitting of 1 November 2021, Clarification section*], there were a series of questions that were raised by Ms Indranee Rajah. I think I went through it with you a bit earlier.

[1925] But there are two points which I would like to bring to your attention. The first relates to a suggestion by Ms Rajah, to which you agreed, that the same points that you wanted to make in relation to the trauma that a survivor might face and the sensitivity that a Police officer ought to have could be made without any reference to the support group, and you agreed with that. Do you remember?

[1926] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I remember.

[1927] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, there was a way of conveying the point without having to bring in your personal experience, which turned out to be untrue, correct?

[1928] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1929] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you did so because you wanted to lend credibility to the story. Would that be fair?

[1930] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1931] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You didn't want someone to come and say it's not believable or untrue, if it is hearsay, so, you made up the point that you were there, correct?

[1932] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1933] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can I also ask you to look at the discussion you had with Ms Rajah in relation to the question of confidentiality. And if you would like to look at the transcript, it's on page 5. You had said, "One of the principles of being in a women's support group is that the details should remain confidential."

[1934] Ms Rajah then goes on to say: "So, because when the Member was asked for details in Parliament, she said she did not want to disclose because of confidentiality. But based on what the Member has just said, actually, by that time, because the story had already been recounted, it means the Member had already breached the confidentiality to the survivor. Is that not correct?" And your answer is: "That is correct, yes."

[1935] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1936] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, would it be fair to say that confidentiality was actually not a reason behind why you needed to have made up that story in the first place?

[1937] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, it was not, but I think it was my own fear of exposing myself as a survivor and being a part of a women's support group.

[1938] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. And on that latter point, I think we had agreed that you could have made the similar point in Parliament without any reference whatsoever to yourself as a survivor or, in fact, even being in a support group, correct?

[1939] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1940] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And if confidentiality was not a reason which held up on 1 November, it would also not have held up on 4 October, when Minister Shanmugam asked you those questions, right?

[1941] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1942] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It was no basis to say confidentiality when all that was sought were some details about the location, where, what date and so on, if the occasion actually happened, correct?

[1943] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think when I mean "confidentiality", it's not only about not revealing the identity of the survivor, but it is also ensuring that the survivor is not re-traumatised.

[1944] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. And I think earlier you agreed with me that when Minister Indranee asked you about this on 1 November, the point is that, actually, for these things, the convention is that once you mention it, even if there can't be an attribution to a specific individual, that's a breach of confidentiality, right?

[1945] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1946] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, my point is that, if that's the case on 1 November, all the more so on 4 October, when details were just being sought on – from the Police station side, details of the occasion – all the less would there be confidentiality breaches, correct?

[1947] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I don't agree, because I'm not sure that there would be no investigation if details of the Police station and the Police officers were given.

[1948] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you will remember that Minister Shanmugam was very careful to say that the identity would be protected. He accepted your point that confidentiality was important. He accepted your point that re-traumatising the victim was something that we would have to be very careful about and that the Police was very mindful and sensitive to. Right?

[1949] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think, regardless if the Police is sensitive or not towards the investigative – or how sensitive the investigation is – the survivor would have been re-traumatised anyway. Just going through a process of being investigated brings up trauma that I don't think anyone understands.

[1950] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. But all that is predicated on there being actually an identifiable victim that you know had attended with you to the Police station but, in this case, there wasn't any, correct?

[1951] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, but I understand that you were asking a hypothetical question.

[1952] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, I wanted to understand the lay of the land. But now applying it to these facts here, there was, in fact, actually no such victim with whom you had gone to the Police station?

[1953] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[1954] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On these facts, yes. I ask this because, Ms Khan, one of our tasks is to assess the degree of culpability and make an assessment, and I hope you understand where I'm coming from.

[1955] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I understand.

[1956] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which is why I'm going into this detail. And so, to be very upfront with you, I'll tell you where I'm coming from.

[1957] As of 4 October, it would have been eight weeks since the first statement was made. And one of the issues that we have to consider is the extent to which you made a deliberate, calculated decision to continue with the falsehood on 4 October and, along the way, the reasons that you proffered would be relevant in assessing that. Or was this something that you did after seeking guidance from senior leaders? Whether that excuses your conduct is something else. But it goes to the degree of culpability. Do you understand what I mean?

[1958] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I understand what you mean, yes.

[1959] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm trying to get the facts around it to understand that carefully from you, because it strikes me that if you are, on your own, determined to perpetrate the falsehood eight weeks from the first one, and there was no guidance that you were given, no advice that you were given in this intervening period, I think that speaks to one state of mind.

[1960] But if there is a motivation and you understood something and you felt that this was guidance from someone who should know what they are telling you, that also speaks to a different occasion.

[1961] So, in that context, these are my questions. Did you consult with anyone in coming up with what you said on 4 October?

[1962] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I did not, and I will not absolve myself of the responsibility, and I will not remove myself from facing the consequences for that.

[1963] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand now. Thank you for your candour on that. Secondly, at that point in time, whether rightly or wrongly, did you feel that you had the support of your senior party leaders in what you were doing?

- [1964] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** At that point in time, yes.
- [1965] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And I think we covered this ground earlier. You had left the meeting on 3 October. I think we don't need to traverse that old ground. But that was your frame of mind, correct?
- [1966] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.
- [1967] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did anyone, and I want to be very clear because of the statements made by the Workers' Party today. Did anyone, at any point in time prior to 4 October, tell you that you should clarify the truth on 4 October?
- [1968] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No.
- [1969] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Are you very sure?
- [1970] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I am very sure.
- [1971] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No senior leader, no activist, no one?
- [1972] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No.
- [1973] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. I said this because there are some very strong statements made in the press release today and in the press interview, and I wanted to be fair to you, to be putting it to you and making sure that that's the case. Okay?
- [1974] Just so I get this correct, can you remember how it was suggested to you that you should consider resigning from the Party? Who said this to you, and what was the form of language that was used, if you can remember?
- [1975] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was suggested to me by Pritam and Sylvia, and the language was that I did not have the support of my teammates and that it was for my own well-being that I should do so.
- [1976] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You did not have the support of your teammates, meaning your Sengkang GRC teammates?
- [1977] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [1978] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is that something that you accept?
- [1979] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** That is something I accept.
- [1980] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was that lack of support something that was evident to you?
- [1981] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was made evident to me at the meeting.
- [1982] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Through the three individuals, but not through your teammates, directly?

[1983] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1984] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You mentioned that you discussed this with your family. I don't want to breach any confidentiality and I don't want to go into anything that is personal, but I do need to know what was discussed with your family in relation to the statements that were made and the decision that you took.

[1985] And, again, to give you the context, to be fair, what we heard from Ms Loh was that your family came to hear of this around the middle of October. She wasn't very precise on the dates. And your family was very concerned with the way in which a statement was worded and had given suggestions.

[1986] So, that's the frame of mind that I have, and I'd like to now ask you for your perspective. Can you please set out for us when your family first knew, what was discussed with them, what were their views on the statement, and were there parts of the statement that they were unhappy with or that they added in or that they disagreed with? Can you share with us?

[1987] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** They were made aware towards the end of October – from the middle towards the end of October.

[1988] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** End of October?

[1989] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I'm not quite sure about the date. And they were concerned that I would be sharing a very personal story in a very public arena.

[1990] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What aspect were they concerned about?

[1991] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** They were concerned that I would be sharing that I, myself, am a survivor.

[1992] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were they concerned that you should come clean and tell the truth?

[1993] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1994] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was that their advice to you?

[1995] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[1996] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did they give any input to the statement, the way in which it was drafted, the points that it contained?

[1997] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** They did give some input, yes.

[1998] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And was that taken on board?

[1999] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I took some of them on board.

[2000] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Apart from your family and the various individuals in the Workers' Party that you mentioned and, of course, Mr Nathan and Ms Loh, did you get advice from anyone else, either directly or indirectly, about what to do, about how to approach the Police, about what to do with clarifying the truth in Parliament and so on?

[2001] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I got advice from a lawyer as well.

[2002] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Besides the lawyer?

[2003] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No one else.

[2004] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No one else. Did anyone else tell you that they have received advice and was conveying any advice to you? Anyone trying to help you in any way?

[2005] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No.

[2006] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm going to put a series of propositions to you in relation to what happened with the Police, and you can tell me what your sense is. I will suggest to you that the reason you were advised not to respond to the Police on 7 October and thereafter on the various two other occasions was because there was a concern by the Workers' Party that the truth would come out through those Police interviews. Would you agree or disagree?

[2007] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I'm really not sure.

[2008] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the concern is that if you went to the Police, you would be there, giving a statement, without any privileges, as opposed to making a clarification in Parliament, where you would have privileges. Would that be a fair sense as to what was operative behind the decision?

[2009] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** That was my concern, actually.

[2010] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, so, that was one factor behind why you chose to ignore the Police and decide to speak in Parliament instead?

[2011] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2012] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. Okay, thank you, Ms Khan. I've got no further questions, Mr Chairman.

[2013] **The Chairman:** Minister Grace Fu.

[2014] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you very much, Ms Khan. I would just like to clarify one point you had made earlier on. If I understand you correctly, basically, there was a change of your position between 7 October and 12 October. Am I right to perhaps infer from what you said that it was the Police email that has made you change your mind about making that statement that you made on 1 November eventually by correcting the narrative in Parliament?

[2015] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was not only that, but it was also after the 4 October Sitting, where I was questioned by Minister Shanmugam.

[2016] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** But you continued while you were being questioned by Minister Shanmugam; you continued to take that position?

[2017] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes. So, after that Sitting, upon reflection, I realised that this was something that I really needed to rectify.

[2018] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** I see. Was that something that you discussed with your party leadership immediately after the Sitting? You have told us that you had a meeting with Ms Sylvia Lim, Mr Pritam Singh, at LO's office on 4 October. You didn't give me the impression earlier that you had decided to make a statement that you made on 1 November.

[2019] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I had not decided by then yet.

[2020] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Okay. So, somewhere between that and 12 October, you made the decision on 12 October, right?

[2021] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2022] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, when did you actually make that decision? Is there a date?

[2023] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** On 12 October.

[2024] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** On 12 October itself?

[2025] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2026] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** And this was on your own volition that you contacted Ms Loh, that you would make this statement, and that started the whole series of events thereafter?

[2027] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was also during a meeting with Sylvia Lim and Pritam Singh.

[2028] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Did you decide at the meeting, after the meeting, before the meeting?

[2029] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** We decided at the meeting.

[2030] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** The meeting was called by you, or was called by Ms Loh, asking for a meeting with Mr Pritam Singh?

[2031] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was called by Mr Pritam Singh.

[2032] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** What time was that meeting?

[2033] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was in the morning.

[2034] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, you had the meeting with Mr Pritam Singh and Ms Sylvia Lim?

[2035] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2036] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** And that's when you decided and made that decision known to them?

[2037] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, that's when we discussed what—that that would be the decision.

[2038] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you.

[2039] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thank you.

[2040] **The Chairman:** So, if I may just ask on to what Minister Grace asked. So, on that meeting on 12 October, where you said you pretty much decided that you should come clean and account for it, could you just share again how that transpired? Was it very much initiated by you or was it initiated by any of the others – how that evolved during the course of that 12 October meeting?

[2041] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was a discussion that we had together and we came to the conclusion together.

[2042] **The Chairman:** Can you amplify a little? What were the considerations given? Clearly, before 12 October, the position, as advised to you, was that you could carry on with the present narrative, no judgement would be made on you, therefore, you didn't feel a need to do that.

[2043] So, what transpired and what were the considerations that you discussed on 12 October that led to this decision that, "Maybe we should admit and figure out how, then, to account for what happened"?

[2044] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** From me, personally, the consideration was that this was something that would weigh on me for the rest of my life. And because of that, it was something that I needed to clarify. I don't think I could have lived with myself.

[2045] **The Chairman:** For the Party leadership, principally for Mr Pritam Singh and Ms Sylvia Lim, what were their thinking and considerations in the discussion with you on this matter?

[2046] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think their consideration was that the matter would not be dropped.

[2047] **The Chairman:** If you could amplify further, what else was discussed as to the thinking behind? So, the fact was that the matter would not be dropped. What were the other worries and concerns they had and the need to, therefore, come and account for it?

[2048] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** The other concern was, as I mentioned, my mental health, because I think it was obvious that this was really affecting me and that I needed to clarify it for my own conscience.

[2049] **The Chairman:** Were there any other considerations discussed?

- [2050] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, there were not.
- [2051] **The Chairman:** So, was that the conclusion reached collectively – yourself, with the two other senior Party members – that this is the course of action that you would all embark on thereafter?
- [2052] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.
- [2053] **The Chairman:** Okay.
- [2054] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** At that meeting, was there any mention about disciplinary consequences within the Party?
- [2055] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I asked, and their answer was “no”.
- [2056] **The Chairman:** Zaqy, any questions?
- [2057] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Yes. So, why do you think that they wouldn’t go straight for the Disciplinary Panel or DP before or on that 12 October date?
- [2058] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I don’t know.
- [2059] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Don’t speculate, right? Okay. What if, after your statement, Secretary-General comes and say you could have gone the other way because you misjudged his statement of “we won’t judge you”. What would you say to that?
- [2060] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I would say that that’s accurate as well.
- [2061] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Why so?
- [2062] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Because I guess it could be inferred as a vague statement to make.
- [2063] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** You don’t think it’s a “get out” clause or meant for you to go either way or being non-committal?
- [2064] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I don’t know. I don’t want to assume.
- [2065] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Okay. After 3 August, you mentioned that you came clean to Member Pritam Singh, Member Sylvia Lim and Faisal Manap. Between then and the time that you came clean, 1 November, who else knew? Who else do you think knew?
- [2066] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** My Secretarial Assistant, Ms Loh Pei Ying, and also the WP volunteer, Mr Nathan.
- [2067] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** You don’t think any other Members of Parliament Members or even your GRC teammates knew?
- [2068] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No.

- [2069] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** So, never discussed, never taken up to CEC?
- [2070] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No.
- [2071] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Okay, when nothing moved, did you ever consider going up to CEC for consideration?
- [2072] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, I did not consider that.
- [2073] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Given that the three of them were the only ones who knew, do you find it a conflict that the same three sat on the Disciplinary Panel without anyone outside the circle sitting on it?
- [2074] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I'm sorry, I don't have enough experience in how Disciplinary Panels are formed. So, I couldn't make any assumptions in that regard.
- [2075] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Okay. Thank you, Chairman.
- [2076] **The Chairman:** Mr Dennis, any questions?
- [2077] **Mr Dennis Tan:** Hi, Ms Khan. Just one question for you. After the material speech in question in August, when did you first consider bringing up this matter to your family?
- [2078] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I brought it up to my husband, and he was the first person to know.
- [2079] **Mr Dennis Tan:** Yes, you did mention that. What about your parents and the rest of your family?
- [2080] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I did not want to put them through the emotional turmoil that it would bring.
- [2081] **Mr Dennis Tan:** Was this, in itself, a reason for not making the decision not to bring it up in Parliament before November?
- [2082] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was definitely one of my considerations, yes.
- [2083] **Mr Dennis Tan:** Just now, you also mentioned that when you were submitting the speech on the portal, do you usually submit your speech early?
- [2084] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I usually do not.
- [2085] **Mr Dennis Tan:** So, for the speech in August, do you remember how late were you in your submission?
- [2086] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I submitted the speech two days before.
- [2087] **Mr Dennis Tan:** Did you make any amendment after your submission of the speech?

[2088] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, like I mentioned, I added the anecdote a day before the Sitting.

[2089] **Mr Dennis Tan:** So, you mentioned that Mr Pritam Singh had made a comment. Did you remember why you did not respond to him?

[2090] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** At that point in time, I did not take it. Upon reflection, I know that I should have understood what he meant but, at that point in time, I did not understand the gravity of what “substantiate” meant.

[2091] **Mr Dennis Tan:** Can you remember how late it was the day before that you made this amendment on the portal?

[2092] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I don't remember.

[2093] **Mr Dennis Tan:** No more questions, Mr Chairman.

[2094] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Good afternoon, Ms Khan. I just want to seek some clarification from you, if I may.

[2095] If you recall, on 1 November, when you made your clarification in Parliament, Leader of the House Ms Indranee Rajah had asked you some questions to clarify your statement. She asked you whether you could have made your case, your sense that the Police should treat survivors of sexual assault better, that you could have made that argument in August without mentioning the falsehoods that you were there with her at the Police station, and you said yes.

[2096] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[2097] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And that in clarifying on 1 November that you had not been physically there could also have been made without necessarily, strictly speaking, disclosing that you were a member of a survivor support group as well or that you had personally suffered a horrific act of sexual assault yourself; that, factually, you could have clarified without explaining what had happened to you, personally, as well?

[2098] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I did think about that, but I think I owed it to survivors and as well to the public, a full explanation on why I made the misjudgement that I did and a full explanation on how I got the information in the first place. So, I wanted to be completely truthful at that point in time.

[2099] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, that was more the context, rather than the facts, that related to that falsehood?

[2100] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[2101] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, would it be right that 4 October, when the Minister for Home Affairs asked you repeatedly about what you said on 3 August, that you could have clarified without necessarily disclosing that you were, yourself, a survivor or that you had heard it from a survivor support group, and that you had actually heard it from an individual, but you were not physically at the Police station?

[2102] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I could have. But, again, that would mean that I would not be telling the whole truth. And I wanted to make sure that when I did make this clarification on 1 November that was the entire truth and that was truthful to the public and to Parliament.

[2103] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. On 12 October, when you resolved, together with the Party leadership, that you would make a statement in Parliament to clarify what had actually happened, that you then immediately broke the news to your parents about your own traumatic experience?

[2104] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It was not immediate. It was a few weeks after that.

[2105] **Mr Desmond Lee:** After 12 October?

[2106] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2107] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. In October, there was a two-day Sitting, if I recall, 4 and 5 October. And that the clarification sought by the Home Affairs Minister was, if I recall, right at the start of the Sitting, at around shortly after 12.30 pm, and the Sitting ended late in the evening. Just to confirm that neither on 4 October nor 5 October did you resolve or were you directed to speak up and asked to make a clarification there and then?

[2108] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[2109] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. No further questions.

[2110] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** If you may allow me to ask a question about your intention of making the specific statement, the very statement that's in question now about Police treatment of survivors. When you made those words, surely your intention was for the Police to improve treatment of survivors. I mean, you went on to explain that there has been training rolled out for judges and so on, and therefore, you called on Ministry of Home Affairs to provide more officers with training.

[2111] So, would you not have thought about the follow-up questions to your accusation that we would want details about the Police officers in question?

[2112] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I was not —

[2113] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Wasn't that a natural conclusion that we would have when we bring up matters in Parliament?

[2114] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I understand your concern. Firstly, I would like to say thank you for using the word "survivor". I think, for me, it's an incredible first step.

[2115] I did not use the anecdote to make any accusations against the Police. I used the anecdote to share that this happens and that we should take it seriously and, if we want more survivors to come forth and make reports, then there needs to be institutional changes. I don't personally think the solution is punishment. I think it's training and that's why I felt from the beginning that it's never been an accusation.

[2116] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Yes, but for any Member of Parliament (MP) to bring it up and for any MP who wants their speeches in Parliament to be taken seriously by the Ministry, wouldn't you expect the Ministry to actually rectify what's going wrong? I mean, if indeed, as what you have claimed, that the Police officer is making very uncalled for remarks in an investigation, wouldn't you, as the MP who's very passionate about this very topic, expect the Minister to follow up and to correct what's wrong?

[2117] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** That was my misjudgement. I did not realise that it would be taken as an accusation. I thought that it would be taken as an example that we could improve upon.

[2118] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you.

[2119] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thank you.

[2120] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Thank you, Ms Raeesah, for your answers. I know this can't be easy for you, rehashing this over and over again. But there are some questions I would like to get some answers to, to fully appreciate the motivations.

[2121] So, again, going back to the statement you made, because you said, "In my line of work, I've accompanied people to the Police stations", I just want to understand, is this true? You have been doing volunteer work or formal work on this? When you talk about "line of work", is that something that you have been doing?

[2122] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, it is something that I have been doing. But I have not ever accompanied someone inside the Police station. I've provided support after. And even in my line of work in different countries, I have accompanied them into the police station before.

[2123] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Sorry. So, you have accompanied people in police stations elsewhere, not in Singapore?

[2124] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2125] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Okay. But this anecdote that you shared, is it something you heard from attending an actual survivor group meeting?

[2126] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It's an anecdote that I heard from a women's support group.

[2127] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** So, you actually heard it from the person who experienced it herself?

[2128] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, the person who went to make a report.

[2129] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** So, what is not true is the fact that you did not accompany her and you did not go to the Police station with her?

[2130] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[2131] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** I wanted to also just appreciate your thinking when you realised what happened on 3 August. You explained that the Leader of the House subsequently

nudged you further to provide the details and all that and, pursuant to that, you reached out to him and spoke to him. So, on 7 August, you met him —

[2132] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No, sorry.

[2133] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Sorry, Leader of the Opposition.

[2134] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Sorry, on 7 August, we had a phone call.

[2135] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** A phone call? Okay.

[2136] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2137] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** And in that phone call, you had told him that the statement that you have made about accompanying someone to the Police station was not true?

[2138] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I said that it was not true.

[2139] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** At that juncture, when you were saying it, did you, in your mind, contemplate that you would then have to actually tell the truth? Is that something that you were contemplating, to actually figure out whether you should then now come clean and actually tell the truth?

[2140] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, it was. It did go through my mind.

[2141] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** So, at that stage and throughout this whole process, you were seeking guidance as to what decision to make?

[2142] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2143] **Ms Rahayu Mahzam:** Okay, thank you.

[2144] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thank you.

[2145] **The Chairman:** Ms Khan, I have a few questions. As you know, we are here to ascertain the facts behind the evolution of your thoughts, why you did what you did. Clearly, as you have mentioned a few times, you do not want to absolve your own personal responsibility and we respect that.

[2146] But as we have discussed, you were also seeking guidance from the Party leadership, from those more experienced than you, as to what would be the right thing to do. It would appear, from what you've shared, that if you had been guided – which eventually you did, which is to come clean and to admit – if you had been guided earlier that that would be the approach to take, you would have been prepared to have taken that approach much earlier. Would that be correct?

[2147] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2148] **The Chairman:** And you did reach out for guidance, but you were not provided that specific guidance until, as you mentioned, on 12 October, and then the decision was taken to take this final approach?

[2149] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2150] **The Chairman:** And just to make clear that the approach until that stage was that if you could keep on to the narrative, that would be something permissible, you would not be judged on that and, I guess, as of 12 October, the sense was that it was no longer viable to maintain that narrative. Would that be correct?

[2151] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I think the exact words were: “There would be no judgement”.

[2152] **The Chairman:** “There would be no judgement”, meaning that if you had chosen to continue maintaining that narrative, they would not judge you?

[2153] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[2154] **The Chairman:** And they would respect your decision to go that path?

[2155] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Correct.

[2156] **The Chairman:** But at no time there was an encouragement for you to clarify and to say that, “Let’s take this approach to tell the truth” and so on, until 12 October, when there was a collective decision?

[2157] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No conclusion to that regard had been reached until 12 October.

[2158] **The Chairman:** Okay. I think it’s important for us to understand that. Because, clearly, guidance was sought. As a new Member of Parliament, you were seeking advice from your seniors as to how best to approach it. And I guess understanding that backdrop was important for us and I think we appreciate your sharing of that.

[2159] Any other questions from other Members? We have mentioned a number of different personalities. Any other persons you feel that would be useful to come before the Committee of Privileges for us to speak to, to have a better understanding of what transpired?

[2160] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Not that I can think of.

[2161] **The Chairman:** So, presently, I guess Mr Yudhishthra Nathan would be useful. He had journeyed with you, in a sense, in terms of how the issues evolved. Beyond that, I guess the other parties directly involved would be Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim, Mr Faisal Manap; and beyond that, it would be your family members that you shared the issues with.

[2162] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2163] **The Chairman:** So, what we would require from you would be documents, based on what has been shared today, whether on WhatsApp, email or whatever form – Telegram and so on – printed documents or otherwise, or even hard copy documents. If you could compile

them. And even on issues that were not necessarily discussed today but are relevant to the issues at hand, that would help us in the Committee to have a better and fuller understanding of the circumstances, I think that would be needed from you.

[2164] And if you could expeditiously work on them, and our staff from Parliament will guide you on that to compile the documents to present it to us so that we can verify and cross-reference based on what is said. Beyond that, is there anything else the Committee needs to highlight? Not at this point?

[2165] Okay. So, if there are no further questions for now, again, we would like to thank you for coming before the Committee. A transcript of the proceedings will be shared with you for verification. So, please go through it. And if you have any minor amendments and so on, do make the changes and send the transcripts back to us. Again, our Parliament staff will guide you on that.

[2166] Do note that the transcripts and any evidence given to the Committee are not to be disclosed to anyone, are not to be published, are to be kept strictly confidential until the Committee has presented its Report to Parliament, which means, not to discuss this with anyone else, and I would suggest including your family as well.

[2167] So, you may withdraw for now; you don't need to remain in Parliament for now, except to settle some of the administrative stuff with the Parliament staff. If there is a need to call you back on a later date, we would do so and we will let you know. Otherwise, our staff will accompany you to the waiting room. So, once again, thank you very much.

[2168] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thank you.

[2169] **The Chairman:** Sergeant-at-arms, please accompany the witness out. Thank you.

(The witness withdrew.)

(The hearing adjourned at 5.02 pm and resumed at 5.09 pm.)

Mr Lim Hang Lim was examined on affirmation.

[2170] **The Chairman:** Mr Lim, for the record, please state your name, occupation and the positions that you hold.

[2171] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** My name is Lim Hang Ling, I'm self-employed and I'm a director of my own company.

[2172] **The Chairman:** The evidence you will be giving today before the Committee will be taken on oath. If you so desire, you can also take an affirmation. Clerk, please administer.

(The witness made an affirmation.)

[2173] **The Chairman:** Please be seated, thank you. The Committee of Privileges is looking into the complaint made by the Leader of the House Ms Indranee Rajah against former Member of Sengkang GRC Ms Raeesah Khan for the breach of privilege.

[2174] Thank you again for attending today's hearing to give evidence before the Committee and to answer the questions which members of the Committee may like to put to you. You have taken a solemn obligation to answer our questions truthfully and you are under affirmation. If you refuse to answer our questions directly or attempt to mislead the Committee, such behaviour will be an offence and in contempt to this Committee.

[2175] I would like to call on Minister Desmond Lee to proceed with his questions.

[2176] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Good evening, Mr Lim, thank you for attending and addressing our questions. You are the Legislative Assistant to the former Member of Parliament (MP) for Sengkang, Ms Raeesah Khan?

[2177] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** That's right.

[2178] **Mr Desmond Lee:** When did you start in that capacity?

[2179] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Last year, November.

[2180] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Are you a member of the Workers' Party, are you a cadre member, a volunteer?

[2181] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes, I am a member of the Workers' Party.

[2182] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Are you a cadre member?

[2183] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2184] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And prior to being the Legislative Assistant for Ms Raeesah Khan, did you hold any other such role, whether as a Secretarial Assistant, Legislative Assistant (LA) to any other Member of Parliament?

[2185] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No.

[2186] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, it's your first time being an LA?

[2187] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2188] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Our understanding of the role of an LA, as set out in the terms of reference when the Parliament Secretariat makes that available to all MPs is that the LA helps the MP with matters which the MP deals with in Parliament, such as looking at Bills, preparing speeches, preparing Parliamentary Questions (PQs) and so on, and Motions.

[2189] Could you share with this Committee what your specific role was in relation to Ms Raeesah Khan's role as MP?

[2190] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Okay. For my core duty as an LA in Compassvale, it's actually not so much on doing the Parliamentary work. Rather, it's more on the grassroots activities, festive events and arranging for house visits and estate walks. So, it's a bit different from perhaps the actual Legislative Assistant's core duty, but it's in a different way serving the community as well.

[2191] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, in that regard, did you participate in any way in Ms Raeesah Khan's work as a legislator, as a parliamentarian? For example, draft her questions for PQs, draft her speeches, help to vet? Did you play any part in that?

[2192] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, I don't do that.

[2193] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. So, when Ms Raeesah Khan writes or prepares a speech, you're not involved in any way?

[2194] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, I'm not involved.

[2195] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Would you know that on 3 August, Ms Raeesah Khan made a speech in Parliament during a Motion led by Members Ms He Ting Ru and Mr Leon Perera about women empowerment?

[2196] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I only learned about it through the media.

[2197] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And when did you find out about the speech? Was it on the day itself or a few days later?

[2198] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** A few days later, because I don't usually follow the proceedings. So, usually it's after, perhaps from reports or maybe sometimes it's snippets from CNA and stuff like this.

[2199] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And in relation to that speech on 3 August in Parliament pursuant to that Motion on women empowerment, Ms Khan had said that, in relation to the Police, that she had accompanied a sexual assault victim, 25 years old, some three years ago, to the Police station to make the report, and that the survivor had come out of the Police station crying and saying that the Police had passed some statements about her drinking and about her attire. You were aware of that?

[2200] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Also through the media.

[2201] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Through the media?

[2202] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2203] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And when you read it in the media, would you also have noticed that the MP whom you served had been asked by the Minister of State for Home Affairs Mr Desmond Tan, asking Ms Khan for substantiation, information about this case, so that the Police could investigate and put things right? You read that in the media as well?

[2204] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I didn't actually go through everything. So, I briefly knew that there was this exchange going on, but actually the details, I'm actually quite vague on it.

- [2205] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But, broadly —
- [2206] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Broadly.
- [2207] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — you were aware that there was question by the Ministry of Home Affairs about her allegations about the Police and that she had been asked in Parliament? You broadly knew that?
- [2208] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I know there were some exchanges going on. But the details, I didn't actually read into the article and finish the whole article. But I knew that there was this thing going on and there were some exchanges. And I think that's about it.
- [2209] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you speak to Ms Khan about those exchanges?
- [2210] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, actually, I did not ask her. I don't have a practice to actually check back with the MPs on speeches or stuff that actually happened in Parliament.
- [2211] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. You see your role more as a kind of estate issues, residents' issues?
- [2212] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes, right.
- [2213] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But since 3 August till now, for instance, since you operate on the ground, I'm sure in the branch, at the meet-the-residents sessions, did anyone ask you, with regard to this matter, that, "Hey, our MP had made some allegations about the Police and it was in the media"? Did anyone speak to you about that?
- [2214] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes. Not say, speak to me, but then, they did bring this thing up, and then, of course, I will direct the answering part to Ms Khan to address them.
- [2215] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she addressed them directly to the residents or did she address them through you?
- [2216] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, to the residents.
- [2217] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She would go direct to the residents?
- [2218] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.
- [2219] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Which means to say you would refer the resident, the details, contact number and the question they raised to her; and she would go back to them?
- [2220] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, it usually happens when we go on our estate walks. Yes.
- [2221] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I'm talking specifically about 3 August and the allegations against the Police. No residents raised it to you? They only raised municipal issues?
- [2222] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Not that I've come across.
- [2223] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No other volunteers asked you about it?

[2224] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Volunteers, no.

[2225] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. Subsequently, on 4 October, Ms Khan again was in Parliament, and it was widely reported in the media and in social media that the Home Affairs Minister Mr Shanmugam had asked her again about her allegation against the Police made on 3 August, asking her for information about which Police station, what year, what month, who were the Police officers involved. Did you read that in the media as well or did you hear it from Ms Khan or any other volunteers or cadres or members?

[2226] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Okay, I do know that this thing took place again because it was quite a thing on the news. But it's like I thought it was a follow-up on previous exchanges, so, I didn't really read into it and really go into the details.

[2227] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Subsequently, on 20 October, you probably would have read in the newspapers that the Police had said that they had approached Ms Raeesah Khan to ask her to meet them to help them with their checks on —

[2228] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Sorry, sorry, can you repeat that?

[2229] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 20 October 2021 —

[2230] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Okay, okay.

[2231] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — you would probably have read in the media. And can you confirm whether you were aware that the Police had reached out to Ms Khan to ask for a meeting and that she had not replied them? Were you aware of that media release or not?

[2232] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, this part, I don't think I actually read that thing.

[2233] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You were not aware?

[2234] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I'm not certain on this.

[2235] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Up to today, you didn't know that the Police had put out a statement about inviting Ms Khan to meet them on the allegations?

[2236] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, I don't recall.

[2237] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You don't recall?

[2238] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes, correct.

[2239] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't read it? Or you might have read it and you don't recall?

[2240] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I don't follow everything to the details.

[2241] **Mr Desmond Lee:** In the media?

[2242] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes. Because, mostly, my work is to handle the constituency work and then to do mostly grassroots. So, I mean, the Parliamentary exchanges, actually, to be honest, I don't really follow.

[2243] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You don't follow?

[2244] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes, unless there's a big news or something that is more, something big that's happening and that may require certain attention, then perhaps I might look into it more in details.

[2245] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Are you aware of one Ms Loh Pei Ying and one Mr Yudhishthra Nathan? Are you familiar with them? Are you acquainted with them?

[2246] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Ms Loh is Ms Khan's Secretarial Assistant (SA).

[2247] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

[2248] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes, I know her.

[2249] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And Mr Yudhishthra Nathan? Mr Yudhish?

[2250] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Mr Yudhish, I know him, but not very well.

[2251] **Mr Desmond Lee:** At any point in time between 3 August and today, did you speak to any one of them about the issue that is the subject matter of today's hearing, the statements made in Parliament by Ms Raeesah Khan?

[2252] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes, I did check with Pei Ying on, like, what's actually going on, because I'm actually not very in tune with the happenings and stuff like this. Since I had been asked to come here, so, I actually need to check, like, what actually do I need to prepare or perhaps read up on and stuff like this.

[2253] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you talked about this matter to them only recently and not much earlier?

[2254] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No.

[2255] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Would you be aware of the 1 November 2021 Parliamentary Sitting where Ms Raeesah Khan made a statement, a personal explanation in Parliament, saying that on both 3 August as well as on 4 October, she had said things in Parliament that were untrue and that she was now clarifying the truths? Were you aware of that statement?

[2256] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2257] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And in the social media about it?

[2258] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** On 1 November, that I actually followed it.

[2259] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you watched it live or you watched it in the news or you watched it or read it on social media?

- [2260] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Read it in article. News article.
- [2261] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Online articles?
- [2262] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.
- [2263] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What was your reaction?
- [2264] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I was like, it's good that she actually took the courage to stand up and share that, no, there are certain misrepresentations. And, personally, I applaud her for it. We all make mistakes. So, if a mistake has been made, it's always good to come back up and admit it and try to correct whatever is wrong and move on from there.
- [2265] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. So, on 1 November, you would have focused your mind that Ms Khan had, not once, but on two separate occasions, made false statements to Parliament. Was that your understanding on 1 November, because that was what she said in Parliament?
- [2266] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Sorry, I don't really recall the actual words, but my attention was actually on the apology, that she actually made an apology for misrepresentation. Yes, that was what I remember reading.
- [2267] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, at no point in time prior to 1 November did you discuss this matter with Ms Khan, Pei Ying, Mr Nathan or any other person?
- [2268] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, I was not involved in the discussion.
- [2269] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You would, of course, by now be aware that Ms Khan had resigned as a Member of Parliament and a member of the Workers' Party?
- [2270] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.
- [2271] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did she discuss that with you or say anything to you about that?
- [2272] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** She actually briefly called me. I can't remember, but I think it was like in the afternoon on the day that she had actually intended to resign and just sort of sound me out and let me know that, "Look, this is happening and it most probably will happen", yes.
- [2273] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Maybe I'll take you through the Secretary-General of the Workers' Party statement dated 1 November 2021, which is before you, and the Clerk would just show it to you. Given that you're a Legislative Assistant but not privy to all the discussions that have been going on —
- [2274] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.
- [2275] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — maybe just share your immediate reaction. What would you make of such a statement? [A social media post was referred to.]
- [2276] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Sorry, when was this?

[2277] **Mr Desmond Lee:** This is dated 1 November. Yes, the Secretary-General's statement: "Ms Raeesah Khan should not have shared an account that contained untruths in the House."

[2278] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Both of these?

[2279] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Maybe you can read the first one first. It's very short. The second one is dated 2 November, which is the Workers' Party media statement, forming a Disciplinary Panel.

[2280] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2281] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What's your immediate reaction to the first statement? I presume you have not read it before, too. This is your first time reading it?

[2282] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I don't remember seeing this.

[2283] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you're reading it for the first time?

[2284] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2285] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, as a Party cadre and as the Legislative Assistant of Ms Khan, no doubt you do municipal duties, but you are her right-hand man.

[2286] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2287] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Reading this statement from your Secretary-General, as a cadre, what is your immediate reaction to this?

[2288] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I think that the SG actually did right and it is right for him to put this statement out, yes.

[2289] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And reading this as a cadre, would your impression be that the Party leadership was unaware of Ms Khan's falsehoods to Parliament until this time?

[2290] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** This, I cannot be sure, because it doesn't say anything.

[2291] **Mr Desmond Lee:** It doesn't say?

[2292] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes. And I'm not privy to it, yes.

[2293] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But as a cadre member, just looking at it, would your impression be that the leadership is only recently finding out about these falsehoods?

[2294] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I prefer not to speculate.

[2295] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Not to speculate. Thanks.

[2296] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2297] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the other statement on the Disciplinary Panel, you would see in the second paragraph that the panel comprises three of your leaders – the Secretary-General, Chairman and Vice Chairman – and they will form a Disciplinary Panel to hear and inquire into Ms Raeesah Khan’s conduct.

[2298] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2299] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Again, any immediate reaction to that, as a Party cadre?

[2300] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Again, I would say that it’s a right move because, of course, it’s accountability and I believe that this is something that has to be done, and, yes, I believe it has already been done.

[2301] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And as a party cadre, you would, reading this, be confident that the members of the panel would have nothing to do with the falsehoods that were made and they would be impartial and fair to Ms Khan? Would that be your assumption?

[2302] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I would believe so.

[2303] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You think so?

[2304] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2305] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. No further questions, Chairman. Thank you, Mr Lim.

[2306] **The Chairman:** Minister Grace Fu.

[2307] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you, Mr Lim. Mr Lim, I believe your role as the Legislative Assistant puts you in very close contact with Ms Khan and I’m sure her well-being is also something that you are concerned with. Ms Khan told us earlier that, actually, she has been very troubled by the various exchanges in Parliament. Did you see that in her being very troubled by what she has said and then the kind of questions that she has received from the public?

[2308] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Okay, going by that stance, yes, she is definitely affected and, to some extent, I think she doesn’t really show it a lot when it’s in public and things like this. But, definitely, when I speak to her and you can hear from her tone that she is affected by it, yes.

[2309] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, earlier on, I think Minister Desmond Lee has talked about several instances. The first one was a speech that she made in Parliament; the second one was, actually, on the same day, she was asked to clarify. She didn’t. And then there was a subsequent speech where she was asked again by the Minister for Home Affairs Shanmugam about details and she didn’t give. Did you find that she had shown some concerns in the second round or her responses were the same?

[2310] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Sorry, but that I did not take notice. Yes, I did not take notice of that one.

[2311] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Or actually there wasn't any difference on the ground, there weren't any residents coming forward to ask her a bit more about why she didn't respond or why didn't she reply, was there? Did you feel any change in —

[2312] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, there wasn't really any marked changes to it, yes.

[2313] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, later on, she also told us that, on a certain date, she was given an email by the Police to basically give details. Did she display any outward signs of concerns over that?

[2314] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Not that I'm aware of.

[2315] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** You're not aware of that.

[2316] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2317] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Okay. So, eventually, she decided to make the statement on 1 November admitting that she has told a lie. Did she share with you that she intends to do so before that?

[2318] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** One day before, she was actually supposed to – I'm not sure whether is it to file the statement or something, but she did share with me a draft on it that she's going to say this in Parliament.

[2319] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Oh, she shared a draft of her speech with you?

[2320] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Yes.

[2321] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** And how do you assess that? What's her mental state? Was she very serious, was she very worried, was she very anxious?

[2322] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Anxious, I believe, yes. But beyond the anxious part, perhaps some of the language, some of the wordings inside there I just made some suggestions to her, yes. But in a general sense, I do not actually – how should I put it – I don't interfere, yes.

[2323] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** When you made those suggestions to her, did you find that she was able to take in your suggestions or you find that she had basically made up her mind about that speech?

[2324] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I believe, more or less, she would have made up her mind on it, yes.

[2325] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Did she tell you that this is a speech that she has discussed with the leadership of the Party or this is just her draft?

[2326] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I did not ask and I'm not aware of whether it has been discussed with other Party leaders or any of those, yes.

[2327] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Were you surprised by what Mr Desmond Lee has shown you about the statement from the Party and also the formation of the Disciplinary Panel the next day?

[2328] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Formation of the Disciplinary Panel, no. I'm not surprised about that. Actually, in fact, I was looking forward to see, hoping that the Party would actually set up a Disciplinary Panel, yes.

[2329] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Why were you happy or hoping to see that?

[2330] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** It's not about happy, all right. It's more about to be able to do an investigation on our own and find out what actually went on and perhaps get a closure from it.

[2331] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Did you ask her yourself and find out for yourself, since you're so close to her?

[2332] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, actually, as I said, I do not interfere, so that, in any case, my judgement or anything would not be affected.

[2333] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, when you say that you hoped to see a Disciplinary Panel being formed, were you hoping that it would clear her name or were you hoping that they would find her guilty of what she has done?

[2334] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Neither of those, but in the hope of the Panel being formed to get the truth out, whichever it is.

[2335] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, if we tell you now that the panel that's formed are the same three persons that had discussed her speeches with her, do you find that as inappropriate because it is about truth that the panel should find, should come up with? Do you find that's inappropriate?

[2336] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I would not say "appropriate" or "inappropriate", but I believe in the impartiality of the Party leaders and it is their duty to be impartial, yes.

[2337] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, if the Party leaders have been involved in advising Ms Khan throughout, should they be the same people that is in the Disciplinary Panel?

[2338] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Okay, I cannot speculate because I'm not sure what actually transpired. But as I have said earlier, okay, so this thing, I believe the Party leaders would have to be impartial even if they have discussed this thing beforehand. They have to, yes.

[2339] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, now that Ms Khan has to resign, did you talk to her about whether this is a decision that she has made on her own or she has been advised, or you think it's a fair outcome for her?

[2340] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Whether is it a fair outcome, I believe I'm not in a position to say. But I'm quite sure that this is her decision because, before that, she actually called me up and told me that it's going to happen and it most probably will happen.

[2341] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Did you ask her why she has to resign?

[2342] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I did not go into the details because I can hear from her voice that she is actually disappointed and sad. So, I just took it at face value and, yes, that's it.

[2343] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** She is a person that you have worked with very closely. You worked very hard, it is your role to try to connect her with the ground and, to have her resign, didn't you try to ask her why?

[2344] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** We talked of this thing before the resignation thing actually came about. So, on and off, we actually had some conversation on this thing and discussion on this, like what are the probabilities and what if it comes to pass and stuff like this. I shared my view with her quite many times beforehand. So, I believe it would be her decision and I leave it up to her. If she finds that this is the best course of action, I will support it, yes.

[2345] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** What were your views that you shared with her? Because, earlier, you told us that you didn't talk, go into details, you leave it to her. But now you tell us that you shared your views many times with her. So, what have you shared?

[2346] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** After the so-called Disciplinary Panel has been set up, and also because of certain things, like we understand what is happening from public, we read the Facebook posts and stuff like this, and we also see what's happening on the social media, so, sometimes, I will just share with her, perhaps we might have a bigger problem at hand. And there might come a point that you either have to resign or there might be some drastic action that you have to take. Yes, we do discuss when all the news and social media stuff, when they come in, yes.

[2347] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, you find that her decision to resign had been there or you find that there's been a change in her decision?

[2348] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** That, I cannot speak for her. Because she has never told me her actual view or what she's actually intending to do.

[2349] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** But you have just said that you discussed the option of resignation with her.

[2350] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** No, not the option of resignation. But to just share that perhaps there might be a probability, like, this might go to this particular direction.

[2351] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** And what was her response to that?

[2352] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Her response was to look at the situation and work with whatever is available. That's what I get from her.

[2353] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you.

[2354] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Thank you.

[2355] **The Chairman:** Other questions? Mr Don Wee.

[2356] **Mr Don Wee:** Hi, Mr Lim. To the best of your knowledge, does Workers' Party have very strict protocols for their MPs, or procedures to follow in the event their MPs face challenging situations? So, let me repeat. Does Workers' Party have a strict set of protocols or procedures for their MPs to follow in the event they face difficult situations?

[2357] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Facing difficult situations in the sense of during constituency walkabouts or what would it be?

[2358] **Mr Don Wee:** Any or in this context, do you think your Party leadership is well aware?

[2359] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** I actually don't have the details on the Party leadership but, on the ground, we do have some response to work with on the division level, yes.

[2360] **Mr Don Wee:** Thank you.

[2361] **The Chairman:** Okay, if there are no further questions for now, we would like to thank you for coming before the Committee. A transcript of the proceedings will be shared with you for verification, so, do go through it. If you have any amendments, please do make changes and send the transcripts back to us. Do note that the transcripts and any evidence given to the Committee are not to be disclosed to anyone or published. It must be kept strictly confidential until the Committee has presented its Report to Parliament, meaning you are also not to discuss what transpired here with others as well. With that, our staff can accompany you to the waiting room. Once again, thank you very much.

[2362] **Mr Lim Hang Ling:** Thank you.

[2363] **The Chairman:** Serjeant-at-arms, please accompany the witness out. Thank you.

(The witness withdrew.)

(The hearing adjourned at 5.41 pm.)

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2021

11.30 am

PRESENT:

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker (*Chairman*)

Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Mr Desmond Lee
Ms Rahayu Mahzam
Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai
Mr Don Wee
Mr Zaqy Mohamad

[Mr Speaker in the Chair]

[2364] **The Chairman:** I call the meeting to order. Serjeant-at-arms, please invite the witness to the witness table.

Ms Loh Pei Ying was examined on affirmation.

[2365] **The Chairman:** Good morning, Ms Loh. Please take a seat. For the record, please state your name, occupation and the positions you hold.

[2366] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** My name is Loh Pei Ying, I'm 30 years old this year. As previously mentioned, I am the head and co-founder of Kontinentalist, a data visualisation and editorial studio here in Singapore. I'm also a cadre member of the Workers' Party and, prior to her resignation, I was the Secretarial Assistant to Ms Raeesah Khan.

[2367] **The Chairman:** Thank you for coming back again at short notice. I would like to remind you that you've made an affirmation yesterday to tell the truth and the proceedings today is a continuation of yesterday's hearing. You are still bond to your solemn obligations. I would now like to hand over to Mr Edwin Tong for some further clarifications and questions.

[2368] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Good morning, Ms Loh.

[2369] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Good morning.

[2370] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm very sorry to trouble you again.

[2371] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** It's okay.

[2372] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I thought I would like to just ask you two broad questions.

[2373] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[2374] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Actually, the first one is just a request in relation to the documents that you have sent – and I know you worked over lunch yesterday, so, I appreciate that very much. Some of the trails of the messages would help us set the context because, some of them, in isolation, don't give us the full picture. So, I would appreciate it if you can work with the staff to just work through these. As I said yesterday, it is not our intention to look into your personal matters. But I would hope that you can give us a bit more context to the discussion that led to some of these messages, if there are preceding ones.

[2375] And if I could just refer you to the transcript yesterday. Is Ms Loh able to have a copy of the raw transcript that we have? I'll just read it to you for the moment, Ms Loh. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 229.*]

[2376] And I had asked you for documents at several junctures. At one juncture, at page 23, I asked you, "For this WhatsApp chat group, could you also produce it to the Committee of Privileges at least in relation to the discussions of the 3 August speech and any discussions you would have arising from this?" And then, further on, I said at line 22: "Your discussions on that and anything else that may have developed from that thereafter."

[2377] So, I would be grateful if you could have that kind of formulation in mind when you look at a particular message or an email so that the full chain and the full trail can be made available for contextual purposes.

[2378] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Admittedly, I'm quite uncomfortable sharing this because there were a lot of things and a lot of opinions that people throw around and, sometimes, in our own zealotness, we say really stupid things.

[2379] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand that.

[2380] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Some of these are quite embarrassing. So, I really don't want to share them.

[2381] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Whilst I understand that, I think the difficulty we have is that we do have to look into all the factual matters and whilst it is an expression of an opinion or expression of a view perhaps in a private chat, there's certain contextual relevance to it in the context of events that have been happening contemporaneously and that sheds light on them. And some of them also allow us to answer some factual questions, such as when, what took place and between who, which some of your messages already shed light on. So, it is in that context I'm asking to see it and I hope you appreciate that we are not trying to delve into personal matters. But it is relevant to the inquiry and I would request that you do provide them.

[2382] If you are uncomfortable, I would suggest that, subject to Chairman's views, we could have a staff from Parliament to sit down with you and you could explain if something is personal and not related to the inquiry, we can always remove it, because I do appreciate that, sometimes, these personal remarks are interspersed with what might be of relevance to the Committee of Privileges. So, we can do that. But, otherwise, any expression, any view formed on any of the matters that we've spoken about, particularly the key points that I've requested, I would like for those to be produced.

[2383] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Perhaps we could agree on what those key points are first before I want to open my WhatsApp to the Parliament staff.

[2384] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. I can tell you from memory what those key points are. And perhaps it's best I give you a date reference because that's probably the best way in which you would be able to identify the documents and the trails.

[2385] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2386] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** From memory, and I will check later on if I've missed anything out: 3 August, there was a speech and you said there was an animated discussion; 4 August, there was some other discussion; 7 August, there was some discussion and a Zoom chat. You don't have to take this down, I'll just get someone to give you the transcript.

[2387] On 8 August, there was a meeting between Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Lim, and Mr Manap with Ms Khan, and there were some discussions thereafter. And I think your evidence was that there was nothing else between August and sometime in October.

[2388] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Nothing else between 8 August and 4 October?

[2389] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, I think I did say just check that that is the case.

[2390] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I went to check. Really don't have.

[2391] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Then, the next one is 3 October, I believe it was a Sunday; 4 October, which was the date of the speech.

[2392] There were several dates in between where I think you said you could not remember, but the next date of relevance is 12 October, where there was a discussion at Mr Singh's house. I think you put in a request to meet. There was then, you explained that there were some review and comments on drafting. And I know of at least one date on 22 October where there was actually a meeting. I don't know whether there were others. So, you said you would check and whether there were drafts exchanged. That culminated I think in the speech made on 1 November. So, any discussions arising from or related to the speech would be relevant, along with the announcements on that day itself made by the Workers' Party. There was a statement by the Secretary-General.

[2393] On 2 November, there was a statement by the Workers' Party media team on the setting up of the Disciplinary Panel (DP). On 4 November, it was Deepavali, and you had a meeting with Ms Khan at her home where she was producing evidence and I think you discussed it with her. You weren't sure about the dates thereafter, so, I said check.

[2394] But the next date you gave us that was of relevance is 25 November where you said you met with the Workers' Party team, the DP. And the other date that was significant was 29 November when I think Ms Khan went before the DP again. Then on 30 November when she resigned. And I think that was the end of it because yesterday was 2 December, which was when the press conference took place.

[2395] Okay. So, that's the timeframe that we had evaluated when we discussed your evidence yesterday.

[2396] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** There are some things that are within this timeframe that obviously concern this issue but they are quite confidential. Am I allowed to tell the Parliament staff that I don't want to share those? To my opinion, they are not relevant to the proceedings. They are just chatter about what's gone on.

[2397] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I can't really make a judgement on that until I know what it is. So, it's difficult for me to say. All I can say is that the request would cover all things of relevance and it relates to. I've tried as best as I can to articulate the periods.

[2398] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sometimes, for example, we would mention names of friends and other volunteers who have given or shared their opinions with us and I would really, really like to keep their identities anonymous if I can, please.

[2399] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. What we could do, subject again to Mr Chairman's approval, is we could actually redact those.

[2400] **The Chairman:** We can do that.

[2401] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We can redact specific messages. I know you can't quite do it when you're trying to do it on the phone and taking a screenshot, and I'm not really technically inclined. But in hard copy form, we can actually physically redact it.

[2402] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Can I redact it on my own phone before I pass it to the staff?

[2403] **The Chairman:** Yes, you can.

[2404] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You can, but I would also suggest that, for those that you redact, you might want to redact the offending or sensitive portions, leaving the rest of the text available, because that allows someone to make an evaluation as to whether that is actually relevant or not. So, could you do that?

[2405] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay, I'll try my best.

[2406] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I know it's an imposition on you, and I—

[2407] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, a lot of these things, never did I foresee this. It was a private conversation between myself and other people.

[2408] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I know.

[2409] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I am a member of the Workers' Party. And I mean no offence, but, sometimes, I say not the best things.

[2410] **The Chairman:** It's okay.

[2411] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Trust me, Ms Loh, we've heard it all.

[2412] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[2413] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, I take no offence and I think my colleagues don't either. I know it's an imposition and I will say to you that it is not our intention to delve into personal matters. I give you that assurance. But we do have a duty to ensure that all matters of relevance come before the Committee of Privileges. So, that's my challenge.

[2414] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Will you be asking any of the other people who are on this conversation the same?

[2415] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It really depends on the extent to which they were aware. And it was, in fact, because of what you told us that we have called Mr Nathan.

[2416] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I know.

[2417] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** From what you've said so far, I don't see anyone else being as closely associated with the events as yourself and Mr Nathan. But I really don't know until I see the other materials.

[2418] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Okay.

[2419] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.

[2420] **The Chairman:** Just to reiterate why this is important. As ongoing, developing comments are made on the issues, you would realise that there are some discrepancies. And I think it's important for us to fully understand how things evolved because, ultimately, the focus of this Committee of Privileges' hearing is really about Ms Khan: what she said, why she said it. Because, ultimately, we also need to determine her level of responsibility for what happened. And I think all the different conversations, perspectives about how things evolved and the sense of it is important.

[2421] As mentioned, as we edit our WhatsApp and all that, I can imagine certain parts, we can just cut them out. But I think the other way to do it is to print it out and then you mark out those parts where you feel uncomfortable, "this comment, that person", I think we can do that. But it at least allows us to still follow the general sense of the flow and more or less have a sense of what else was covered. That would really be useful.

[2422] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Can I have a guarantee that the conversations will be kept strictly to only the eyes of the people on this Committee and not anyone else beyond this?

[2423] **The Chairman:** Yes, we can do that. Should there be a need to make any things public, this one we will clarify and make sure that we clear that with you. But, otherwise, it is for the Committee of Privileges, the COP, to review that evidence.

[2424] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh, the proceedings are confidential, as we had told you yesterday as well. The thing is that we are a body that has been set up by Parliament to make findings and we have to report to Parliament. So, to the extent that things are relevant to the issues that we face, we do have to report to Parliament and, to that extent, if it goes to Parliament and becomes public, that's unavoidable. That's our duty.

[2425] But, obviously, it is also for us to determine what's relevant and what's not relevant. And to the extent that there are private conversations that are irrelevant, on banal things, I don't think that will form part of the record. And I'm quite happy for us to look at that and have that either redacted or expunged from the record altogether. But I think, as I have said earlier, in order for us to make that judgement, we do have to be broader and then we narrow down from there. So, I hope you understand that. So, it has to be produced first.

[2426] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, honestly, I don't feel like I have much of a choice. It makes me really uncomfortable to do this. But I will try to collaborate as best as I can.

[2427] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, I appreciate that very much.

[2428] **The Chairman:** We appreciate that.

[2429] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The second area I wanted to get your confirmation was this. In one of the documents that you gave us yesterday, there was a WhatsApp message just on its own. I would like to correlate that to evidence that we heard from Ms Khan yesterday so that it gives you the context.

[2430] You have a bundle of the notes of evidence before you. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1485.*] If I could trouble you to please turn to page 159 and you will see that at the top left-hand corner of the page. To give you the context, I'm asking Ms Khan questions and I was focused on 7 August. And just for context, you remember 7 August when she had a conversation with Mr Singh and thereafter they set up a meeting with the three of the Party leaders.

[2431] So, if you look at Ms Khan's statement at around line 15 or 16, have a quick look, I've made that reference and she answered: "There was a short phone call. Then, there was a meeting." That's the context.

[2432] If you go over the page, I then asked her, at line 10: "On this occasion, Ms Lim, Mr Manap were also present", that's at Mr Singh's house. She said: "Yes."

[2433] "Did you put it in clear terms to them as well that the statement you had made was false?" Answer: "Yes."

[2434] "Could they have been misunderstood?" Answer: "No, they could not."

[2435] I asked her what was their reaction to this. She said, "It was incredible disappointment. There was a lot of anger, but I think there was some compassion there as well. The reaction there was that if I was not to be pressed, then the best thing to do would be to retain the narrative that I began in August."

[2436] And I said: "Let me understand the last statement. You said if you're not going to be pressed, then you take the narrative that you started in August?" Answer: "Yes."

[2437] "It means if you can get away with it, we don't need to clarify the lie, correct?" Answer: "I think in the simplest terms, yes, you are correct."

[2438] I had a further exchange with her and, at line 19, I said: “So, the upshot of the meeting a few days after 7 August was that the Workers’ Party leadership decided that there would be no need to clarify the position. They would keep the lie in place since if you’re not pressed, there’s no need to clarify the truth, correct?” Answer: “Correct.”

[2439] Then, if you go over the page. I asked her and this is where it’s relevant to you, line 5: “Did you discuss this with Ms Loh thereafter?” Answer: “Yes, I did.” “In those discussions, did you give her an account of what happened?” Answer: “Yes, I did.” “Would that be by message?” Answer: “Yes, that would be by messages.” And I noted that to be in the plural.

[2440] “And those messages would capture the thrust of what you had discussed with Mr Singh, Mr Manap, and Ms Lim?” Answer: “Yes.” And then, I asked her to make a note of it. And at line 19, I said, “Those messages would have been contemporaneous, meaning they would have been roughly around the same time as when you concluded the meeting with the three of them?” Answer: “Yes.”

[2441] When I asked her what was Mr Loh’s reaction, she said: “I don’t remember her reaction by message but I think when we spoke about it afterwards, there was a sense that the best thing to do would be to tell the truth.” So, that’s the context of the evidence that Ms Khan had given.

[2442] I have a few questions for you. First, there was a conversation that Ms Khan had with you after she met with the three of them. Can you describe it for us, please?

[2443] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I want to think that I’m being completely honest here, because, again, I cannot, there was a lot of like chatter.

[2444] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[2445] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** But to my knowledge, that message that I shared with you is the only one where she had explicitly stated the nature of the conversation that, with reference specifically only to this Police accusation. Because, unfortunately, they said, “Take it to their grave” which, when I went back to look at it, I was like, I mean that’s pretty bad.

[2446] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sorry, to interrupt you, but I’ll come to that in a minute. What I was referring to is, if you look at the bottom of page 162 to the top of 163, she’s saying that besides the messages, that she did speak to you afterwards. Do you remember that conversation?

[2447] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** So, I looked through the messages and following right after that message that I’ve sent to you, what Ms Khan proceeded to do was to just send us a draft of the statement that she was going to put out that day. And that statement referred specifically to matters concerning, for example, the FGM and polygamy and my reaction to those was simply to just finesse that draft. To my knowledge, I can’t recall responding to their reaction, like to what the Party leaders had said.

[2448] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan seems to recall that there was a sense that the best thing to do would be to tell the truth, in reference to your conversation with her. That, to my mind, was also consistent with what you told us yesterday.

[2449] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. As I said, there might be some degree of mis-remembering happening. But as I mentioned – and this is what I looked through the chats and I remember when she was pressed by Minister Shanmugam on 4 October, I told her, “I think best you tell the CEC”.

[2450] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. But, in fact, actually in August and this is 8 August —

[2451] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I think —

[2452] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — you had already made that point clear to her?

[2453] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I must have said it at least on Zoom. I don’t recall because, admittedly, we were very aware that this is a highly confidential and highly sensitive matter and we explicitly avoided going about it in chat.

[2454] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She also seems to at least recall that there were several messages, or at least a series of messages, besides just the one that you had sent to us. Do you recall if there are others which might shed light on this? For example, if the messages don’t directly concern what was discussed at the meeting, but also her view of what the meeting said, your response and what to do thereafter, that would also be relevant.

[2455] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I know that, but, I mean, later the Parliament staff can verify what I’m saying, to my knowledge, from when she told them on 8 August to 4 October, we really didn’t chatter about it anymore because, to me, in my mind, she had told Party leadership. And, in my mind, I also thought I just put this behind us and move on.

[2456] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On that day itself, the takeaway from that meeting —

[2457] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Of 8 August?

[2458] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of 8 August. I know you were not there but, as I said, there was an exchange of messages. She sent you a message. You must have looked at it and taken something away from it. Would what I’ve just read to you at page 160 through to 162, accurately summarise the gist of the takeaway from the meeting with the Workers’ Party leadership?

[2459] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I really cannot say if it’s accurate or not because all the knowledge that I have of that meeting was that one message.

[2460] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Based on that one message and maybe you can have a look at that one message – is there a copy for Ms Loh? [*A message was referred to.*]

[2461] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Thank you.

[2462] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You go to 8 August. I think you will recall it because you quoted from this earlier, 8 August, it’s time-stamped 12.41 pm, which I presume that’s the time it was received or sent.

[2463] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2464] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It says, “Hey, guys, I just met with Pritam, Sylvia and Faisal and we spoke about the Muslim issues and the Police accusation. I told them what I told you guys, and they’ve agreed that the best thing to do is to take the information to the grave. They also suggested that I write a statement to send out this evening.” What was your reaction when you received this? What was your takeaway from this message?

[2465] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Admittedly, like, “Okay, that’s what the Party leaders decided”.

[2466] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meaning, don’t clarify the truth of the statement?

[2467] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, as I said, I avoided commenting on it on text message. I believe this was also one of those Phase 2 Heightened Alert period, so we also didn’t meet in person. And I genuinely did not deliberate on this any further until 4 October.

[2468] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand, but I just wanted to understand your state of mind when you saw this message, because this was obviously sent to you. “Hey guys” refers to yourself and Mr Nathan, right?

[2469] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. I’ll have to be very frank and admit that I really think that I trusted their —

[2470] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You trusted the Workers’ Party leadership judgement?

[2471] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2472] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But what was your view from this? What does “take the information to the grave” mean?

[2473] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Don’t tell anyone.

[2474] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yesterday, when we went through what was discussed on 3 October and, again, to give you the context, Ms Loh, you told us yesterday that 3 October, there was a meeting between Mr Singh and Ms Khan at her home.

[2475] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes

[2476] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you only heard about it subsequently when Mr Singh narrated it to you —

[2477] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Correct.

[2478] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — on 12 October to yourself and Mr Nathan?

[2479] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2480] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you also told us that Mr Nathan could corroborate what you heard, right?

[2481] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2482] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which we'll put to him in a moment. One of the takeaways from that discussion that Mr Singh conveyed to you was that he told Ms Khan on 3 October that – I forget the words precisely but it's something along the lines of "Keep to the narrative and I won't judge you."

[2483] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** I don't know about the first half of that, but, definitely, the four words "I will not judge you".

[2484] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Maybe to be more accurate, I should just show you what was said, so that we're on the same page. I'll first give you Ms Khan's account of this, okay?

[2485] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2486] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If you could pick up that bundle and turn to page 153 and I just would like you to start with line 16. So, to give you the context, this is the page, this is the reference point: "I had a conversation with Leader of the Opposition. Conversation was that if I were to retain the narrative, if I were to continue the narrative, there would be no judgment." "When was this?", "3 October, in my house." Over the page, she gives an interpretation of that.

[2487] Your account yesterday can be found at page 39. And if you look at line 7, you said: "This is information that I have, shared with me after 4 October." So, I believe you meant 12 October, which is after the event itself. "I believe she met Mr Pritam Singh the day before", which is 3 October. And then you said at line 13: "But definitely I know in a subsequent meeting that I had with Mr Pritam Singh in person at his place, that he shared with me he had met her the day before, and he told her that he had a feeling that this might come up. And I don't know the full details of what he said to her, but he shared with me that he said 'I will not judge you'".

[2488] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2489] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, if you accept Ms Khan's narrative, what I showed you earlier, this would be in the context of the prevailing thinking that, in August, the Workers' Party leadership had said not to disclose the information and to take it to the grave. That would be a fair assumption?

[2490] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2491] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. I've got no further questions, Mr Chairman.

[2492] **The Chairman:** Any other questions from other Members? Mr Don Wee, I believe you have a clarification to make.

[2493] **Mr Don Wee:** Sure. Good afternoon, Ms Loh.

[2494] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Good afternoon.

[2495] **Mr Don Wee:** Yesterday, I informed you that the Workers' Party press conference had happened when we were speaking or when we were hearing from you yesterday.

[2496] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2497] **Mr Don Wee:** So, I mentioned that, during the press conference, the Workers' Party leadership was aware of the untruth a week after 3 August Parliament Sitting. Instead of "3 August", I mentioned "3 October". [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1216.*]

[2498] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes.

[2499] **Mr Don Wee:** So, thus, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify and stand corrected.

[2500] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Thank you. I remember that, too. I was quite shocked when I opened my phone to see that that was not correct.

[2501] **Mr Don Wee:** Thank you.

[2502] **The Chairman:** We note the clarification. Any other further questions for Ms Loh from other Members? So, if there are no other further questions, I think, as discussed, you can go through some of the requests —

[2503] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, actually I would like to clarify one thing that I said yesterday because, after I looked at my conversations, I realised that maybe what I represented yesterday was not completely accurate.

[2504] I think Minister Tong asked me what my primary advice to her was after 3 August, prior to having known the truth. I had maintained, I had said that I recommended that she stick to a line of confidentiality as the reasoning for not giving further information to Parliament, and I believe that was not accurate. As you can see in the text messages, I had just kind of told her that, you know, "Okay, yes, mistake", and kind of move on from it.

[2505] I had said that I had recommended that to her because, actually, on that day itself or, rather, on the day after, I believe on 4 August, my husband and I had a very heated debate on this issue. Obviously, he was also upset that the Police had been maligned and I told him it's the absolute right thing to maintain the line of confidentiality for the victim, and that's why I think it got stuck in my head. So, it was said to him, but not to her.

[2506] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand that. Thank you very much, Ms Loh.

[2507] **The Chairman:** As discussed, if you are able to go through and if you are comfortable, perhaps, you may discuss with my staff, I will have someone senior to talk to you. And then, perhaps, help you in the review of your materials, if you feel that there is a need to.

[2508] Like I said, the reasons for doing so is to understand the backdrop, and I think you understand the gravity of the issues, which is why, I think, the circumstances, how things evolved, the dynamics of it, it's important for us to lay out. We are mindful of the sensitivity.

So, like I have said, some of these things, if it makes it easier, print it out, then you can mark it out accordingly, and then that will be helpful for us.

[2509] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I'm not comfortable with that. But if I can just choose on my own, I think that would be best.

[2510] **The Chairman:** That is fine. But I hope you understand the reasons why we are doing this.

[2511] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I fully understand. I don't know if I will be called again?

[2512] **The Chairman:** You will be submitting any further documents? I think you've been going through, and there are still other materials that you might be sending to us? Emails or any other materials besides WhatsApp?

[2513] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** No, no, just the WhatsApp stuff. I had obviously a long think about what's been happening yesterday and I just wanted to give, to some extent, a bit of a personal statement, if I'm allowed.

[2514] **The Chairman:** Yes, you may.

[2515] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. Just in case, I guess, anyone thinks that I'm coming in with an agenda of sorts, I just want to clarify that I've been a member of the Workers' Party for 10 years, and I've given the cause a reasonable amount of my personal time and my youth. And I'm very aware of the ramifications of what I've shared, including these WhatsApp conversations, and —

[2516] **The Chairman:** Yes, please carry on.

[2517] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes. It pains me greatly. But, to me, beyond anything else, it's important to be truthful to my country.

[2518] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh, thank you very much. I want to assure you that we are also here on a fact-finding mission. There is no agenda upfront by us. And we are not preconceived on any views. It is our job to be impartial and neutral. And we appreciate the candour, and that's all that we expect and we appreciate of all witnesses. Thank you.

[2519] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Yes, I'm genuinely very afraid about what will happen after.

[2520] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, thank you.

[2521] **The Chairman:** Understand.

[2522] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Sorry.

[2523] **The Chairman:** No, it's okay.

[2524] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Thank you.

[2525] **The Chairman:** So, we have no further questions for now. We would like to thank you for coming before the Committee. A transcript of the proceedings will be shared with you for your verification. Please go through it, and if you have any other minor amendments, please make the changes and send the transcripts back to us. As mentioned yesterday, do note that the transcripts and any evidence given to the Committee are not to be disclosed to anyone or published, and must be kept strictly confidential until the Committee has presented its Report to Parliament.

[2526] You may withdraw now. But, as mentioned, I think you can work on the relevant documents and so on, and to black out any of the materials or portions of it that you may not be comfortable with. If you need to, you can talk to our staff, if it helps to assist that process. Our staff will be accompanying you out to the waiting room. Thank you very much. Serjeant-at-arms, please accompany our witness. Once again, thank you very much, Ms Loh.

[2527] **Ms Loh Pei Ying:** Thank you.

(The witness withdrew.)

(The hearing adjourned at 12.05 pm and resumed at 12.13 pm.)

Ms Raeesah Khan was examined on affirmation.

[2528] **The Chairman:** Good afternoon, Ms Khan. Please take your seat. For the record again, please state your name, your occupation and positions you might hold.

[2529] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** My name is Raeesah Khan and I don't hold any positions currently.

[2530] **The Chairman:** Thank you very much for coming back again at short notice. I would like to remind you that you have made an affirmation yesterday to tell the truth. The proceedings today is a continuation of yesterday's hearing and you are still bond to your solemn obligations. Thank you very much for submitting some of the documents that you had sent to us.

[2531] The main thing I thought you might want to, perhaps, make clear is whether you could go through your various channels of communications and look at making available more of some of the materials that might be pertinent to what you shared and what you had covered. Or even if you had not shared it yesterday, but that may help to shed light on the circumstances behind which things evolved from when you made the original statement, in between and eventually to your statement that you made on 1 November. We've received from you, but we believe that there could be more materials. If that could be made available to us as well, please.

[2532] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** What materials would they be?

[2533] **The Chairman:** Emails, WhatsApp messages, anything that can help validate some of the points you have made or give a fuller sense of the conversations taking place. Because it helps us in the Committee to have a better feel of how the different things have evolved over time.

[2534] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay. I'm not sure what else I would have.

[2535] **The Chairman:** Would you have other materials or are there materials that you felt that, perhaps, you're not so comfortable to share? Because one of the things would be that we could print it out, you could always use a marker and we can black out if there are particular conversation piece or reference to other people that you may not be comfortable with, but the rest of the conversations might be helpful for us to understand how things evolved.

[2536] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay. I'm not really sure what other materials I would have, aside from what I've given already.

[2537] **The Chairman:** So, in your mind, you've gone through. There are a few items the Parliament staff have. This Penawarsg “.png” clips, these are graphics, I suppose?

[2538] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2539] **The Chairman:** So, if we are not able to print them out at the moment, I don't think —

[2540] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay. And I gave the attachments as well this morning.

[2541] **The Chairman:** Yes. We are able to print out three of them, but for the Penawarsg ones, we are not able to, so, perhaps you can assist.

[2542] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Oh, okay, sorry, I thought it was visible enough. But I will send those as well.

[2543] **The Chairman:** Yes, okay, so that would be useful. Minister Edwin Tong.

[2544] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan, may I, perhaps, assist in that. We are not after any of the personal documents that you have, things which you may have, private messages with friends, with family. As I said yesterday, we are not after those, and we don't want to intrude into your privacy.

[2545] But we do have a duty to look at all material that is relevant to the proceedings, and the relevance of the issues that we explored with you yesterday all the way from August when you first made the speech on 3 August right through to the press conference that took place yesterday. That's the time horizon that we have in mind. And within that, I think you would remember that we did talk about key events.

[2546] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2547] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** For example, your meeting on 8 August at Mr Singh's house; 3 October, when Mr Singh visited you; 4 October, when you had a meeting at the LO's office in Parliament and so on. If you like, I can give you a complete list, but I think it's in the transcripts.

[2548] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2549] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I did tell you to take notes of it. So, those are the key moments, key events. And I'd like you to think about those as the key points and anything arising from or related to each of these key moments would be material that is relevant: whether it's email, Telegram chats, WhatsApp or any other social media or platforms, not of a purely personal nature, but where you discussed an issue even with a friend or with a family that might relate to an issue that we have discussed. So, that's the formulation of what we have in mind.

[2550] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay.

[2551] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Thank you very much.

[2552] **The Chairman:** Any other questions from any other Members? Mr Dennis Tan.

[2553] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** Mr Chairman, just a clarification. Good morning, Ms Khan. Just a clarification on a WhatsApp message that you have sent to your SA Ms Loh Pei Ying on 8 August. Are the documents on the table? The screenshots of the WhatsApp conversation between Ms Loh Pei Ying, Raeesah Khan and Yudhishtira Nathan, and so on, which was disclosed by Ms Loh Pei Ying.

[2554] **The Chairman:** Could you make that available to Ms Khan, please? [*A message was referred to.*]

[2555] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** It's page 2. Thank you.

[2556] **The Chairman:** Just to add, these are examples of some of the conversations that you may have had on the issues that might be pertinent. So, if you have these, these would be useful as well.

[2557] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** I understand. Okay. So, you would like the exact same —

[2558] **The Chairman:** Mr Dennis Tan has a further question, but I'm just adding that these are examples of conversations that you may have had with colleagues, friends and so on, that you may have discussed on issues, such as these, would be useful if you could make them available to us as well.

[2559] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay.

[2560] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** With the entire trail so that it's relevant and there's a context to it. That's what we said to Ms Loh, too.

[2561] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay, I understand.

[2562] **The Chairman:** Dennis.

[2563] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** Yes, I just have a short clarification. If you look at page 2, right at the bottom, on 8 August, Sunday, you sent a message to Ms Loh Pei Ying, and right at the bottom of that message, you said that: "They also suggested that I write a statement to send out this evening."

[2564] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes.

[2565] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** Okay. May I know, did you follow up on this?

[2566] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Yes, I did write a statement.

[2567] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** Okay. Can you tell us what is this statement?

[2568] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** It's available on Facebook, actually. But it was about the comments I made about the Muslim issues affecting women.

[2569] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** So, it was not about the issue regarding you accompanying another person to the Police station, right?

[2570] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** No.

[2571] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** Thank you.

[2572] **The Chairman:** Any other clarifications? No. There being no further questions for now, we would like to thank you again for coming before the Committee. A transcript of the proceedings will be shared with you for verification. You go through it. If you have any other minor amendments, please make the changes and send the transcripts back to us.

[2573] Again, as mentioned yesterday, note that the transcripts and evidence given to the Committee are not to be disclosed to anyone and published. It must be kept strictly confidential until the Committee has presented its Report to Parliament.

[2574] As I have mentioned earlier, you've seen the examples, these are some of the messages that are pertinent and useful, as you would have corresponded with, whether it's Mr Nathan, Ms Loh or any others that might be useful, I think it would give us a good sense of how things evolved. So, these would be very much appreciated.

[2575] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay, I understand. Thank you.

[2576] **The Chairman:** So, you may withdraw for now. Our staff will accompany you to the waiting room. Thank you very much.

[2577] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Okay. Thank you.

[2578] **The Chairman:** Sergeant-at-arms, please accompany the witness out. Thank you once again, Ms Khan.

[2579] **Ms Raeesah Khan:** Thank you.

(The witness withdrew.)

[2580] **The Chairman:** Is the next witness here? Sergeant-at-arms, you can invite the next witness to the witness table, please. Thank you.

Mr Yudhishthra Nathan was examined on affirmation.

[2581] **The Chairman:** Good afternoon, Mr Nathan. Please take your seat. You may remove your mask. For the record, please state your name, occupation and the positions that you may hold.

[2582] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Good afternoon, Mr Chairman and Members of the Committee of Privileges. My name is Yudhishthra Nathan. I'm a graduate student. So, that's kind of my position in the University.

[2583] **The Chairman:** Yes, that's fine. Thank you very much for being here today. The evidence that you'll be giving today before the Committee will be taken on oath, and if you so desire, you can take an affirmation as well. So, Clerk, please administer the oath.

(The witness made an affirmation.)

[2584] **The Chairman:** Thank you. Please be seated. The Committee of Privileges is looking into the complaint made by the Leader of the House, Ms Indranee Rajah, against former Member of Sengkang GRC, Ms Raeesah Khan, for a breach of privilege.

[2585] Again, thank you for attending today's hearing to give evidence before the Committee and to answer the questions which Members of the Committee would like to put to you. You do have a solemn obligation to answer our questions truthfully. If you refuse to answer our questions directly or attempt to mislead the Committee, such behaviour will be an offence and in contempt of this Committee.

[2586] I will now call on Minister Edwin Tong to raise his questions.

[2587] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Good afternoon, Mr Nathan. Thank you for being here to come and assist the Committee of Privileges. I just want to give you some opening remarks on the background. You know that Ms Khan is facing a complaint by the Leader of the House. It relates to untruths spoken in Parliament and also a failure to substantiate allegations made in Parliament.

[2588] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2589] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's the broad nature of the complaint. She has admitted to them. And I think you might be familiar with what happened in Parliament on 1 November.

[2590] This Committee of Privileges is set up to understand the specific circumstances, fact-find and also, in the appropriate case, to make recommendations as to the appropriate sanctions, if any.

[2591] In that context, the nature and context and circumstances in which this took place would be relevant for us to consider, which is why we are inviting evidence from anybody who is able to shed light on how the statements came to be made and the events that took place

thereafter, because, as you can appreciate, that goes towards the level and degree of culpability. So, that's why we are taking this evidence.

[2592] In the course of this session, I will ask you specific questions. I'll be grateful if you could answer them. If there's a need to elaborate and they are relevant, I will ask you to elaborate on them. Along the way, you might reference messages or emails or documents and, if they are relevant and, subject to Mr Chairman's approval, I will ask you to produce them as well to this Committee of Privileges. Finally, if there's anyone else in the course of giving your answer whom you think will be able to shed more light on relevant issues, please do raise them to us. Okay?

[2593] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Okay. Thank you.

[2594] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. Mr Nathan, we contacted you yesterday because it arises from the evidence that Ms Loh gave us. And she told us that Ms Loh and yourself were close friends. Would that be right?

[2595] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2596] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that you were both assisting Ms Khan in relation to the issues concerning the 3 August speech in Parliament, issues arising from that speech?

[2597] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Issues arising thereafter, yes.

[2598] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But not the preparation of the speech?

[2599] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2600] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. You are presently a student, you said a graduate student?

[2601] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2602] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Just a little bit of background of yourself. You started as a member of the Workers' Party in 2013. Would that be correct?

[2603] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No, I started as a volunteer of the Workers' Party in 2013, but I only became a member, I think, in early 2016, yes.

[2604] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you're presently in the Workers' Party Youth Wing Exco?

[2605] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No, I am no longer in the Youth Wing Exco because my term had expired.

[2606] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see. So, when was that term up?

[2607] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I believe – do forgive me if I get this wrong – roughly around 2019.

[2608] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And up to that point in time, how long would you have spent in the Youth Wing Exco?

[2609] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** It was a two-year term, but the term got carried forward by, I think, about six months to a year because of COVID-19 because we couldn't gather to have our conference.

[2610] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see. You would have worked closely with Mr Perera, who was the president during the period of your term?

[2611] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2612] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you also have worked on occasion with senior members of the Workers' Party?

[2613] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** In relation to the Youth Wing or —

[2614] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On various matters. Obviously, Youth Wing would be a primary focus, but on various matters as well.

[2615] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Actually, no. Youth Wing was just—I think in the Workers' Party, I'll speak for myself; so, like many other members, I wear several hats. In relation to your question, yes, I do work with senior members of the Workers' Party leadership.

[2616] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us who that would be?

[2617] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Pretty much all of the Members of Parliament (MPs) at various points in time. But, primarily, because I'm a Sengkang GRC volunteer and have been so since the former Member of Parliament Ms Lee Li Lian's term, because I'm a resident there. So, essentially, I'm based there. Over the past, I'd say, two years, I've been working with the Sengkang GRC MPs most of the time.

[2618] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. But prior to that, you would also have worked with the other elected MPs?

[2619] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2620] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, those from Aljunied GRC and Hougang SMC?

[2621] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2622] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. Are you a cadre member of the Workers' Party?

[2623] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2624] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You were also featured in the GE 2020 video, I seem to recall.

[2625] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes, I was.

[2626] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There is this phrase that's commonly used to describe you and I just want to see whether that's accurate. You're known as the "man behind the scenes". Does that come across as familiar?

[2627] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I haven't heard that term being ascribed to me in particular, but I think it's fair to say that most of the members of the Workers' Party are men and women behind the scenes, so, I would accept that.

[2628] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it was used of you in the context that you're often around, not always in the forefront, but often supporting Party events and being involved in Party activities.

[2629] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2630] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. That would be a fair description of you?

[2631] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2632] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. To give you some context again, as I have said, Ms Loh had some references to occasions when she was present with you. There were also some occasions where she had joint discussions with you, for example, across a Zoom session with Ms Khan. There would also have been occasions where she attended meetings together with you. And at various junctures, she said Mr Nathan would be best placed to corroborate certain things.

[2633] So, it is in that context that we've asked to meet with you, and the questions that I will ask you will focus on those areas. Ms Khan has also given evidence to this Committee of Privileges, and you will see in front of you, to your right, next to the blue file, the transcripts from yesterday. What I will do is I will refer you, from time to time, to those transcripts because it's best for you to hear exactly what they have said and then I will ask you some questions. Okay?

[2634] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Okay.

[2635] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that's what we will be doing. Let me just start with what happened in August. Ms Khan made a speech on 3 August in Parliament. We agreed earlier, you didn't assist in the preparation of the speech?

[2636] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2637] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, right? Yes. But shortly after the speech was made, you would have become aware that such a speech was made, correct?

[2638] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2639] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When would that be?

[2640] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I was aware that the speech had been made probably on the day itself when I heard about it in the news.

[2641] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you have a reaction to the speech?

[2642] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes, because by the time that I had become aware of the speech, I had also seen the exchange between Ms Khan and the Minister of State, if I'm getting his title right – I hope I am – Desmond Tan.

[2643] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[2644] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** And, so, I did watch that exchange. I initially thought that it was alright for Ms Khan to have raised an anecdote as an MP, as MPs do, but I also think that agencies have a right to respond to that and to question that.

[2645] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you speak to Ms Khan at that point in time or was it just an observation of the speech itself that you had?

[2646] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I did speak to Ms Khan, actually.

[2647] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see. Can you tell us when and give us a gist of that conversation?

[2648] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright. I spoke to Ms Khan just after the exchange that she had with the Minister because she gave me a phone call.

[2649] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Wait. She gave you a phone call?

[2650] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2651] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This would be on 3 August?

[2652] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** On 3 August.

[2653] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Can you tell us roughly what time this was and maybe give us a gist of the conversation?

[2654] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think it must have been in the late afternoon. I can't remember the exact time. She asked me if I had watched the speech. I told her that I hadn't but I had caught up with it on the news through the live stream.

[2655] And she told me that Mr Pritam Singh was asking her for details about the victim whom she had accompanied and she was worried because she was saying that, because of confidentiality reasons, she wouldn't have been able to provide that to him.

[2656] So, I think she called me out of having a sense of discomfort of telling Mr Singh that she wouldn't be able to provide him with the details. So, I just told her, "Just tell Mr Singh that because of confidentiality, if that's what you believe, then it might be a problem to get the details."

[2657] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At that point in time, did she tell you that the anecdote that she cited was untrue?

[2658] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2659] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you gave her your views on the basis that the anecdote was true?

[2660] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2661] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But that the only reason operative at that point in time for not disclosing further details was confidentiality?

[2662] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes. Well, actually, I would add that Ms Khan mentioned to me that she had met this victim by way of helping at some organisation. And, so, it was both the issue of confidentiality and also the issue that, hypothetically – well, not hypothetically at that time – but, to my knowledge, if there had been such an organisation, then because of confidentiality, she might not have been able to get the information from that organisation. So, I said, “Perhaps you could explain this to Mr Singh if that’s what you agree with.”

[2663] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But all that was on the basis that you had not been aware that the anecdote was false?

[2664] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2665] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you were giving views like any other member of the public watching the speech?

[2666] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2667] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Was there anything else discussed on this occasion?

[2668] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2669] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No. Was it a long call, short call?

[2670] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** It was a rather short call.

[2671] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I’m assuming that after 3 August until the next reference point I have, which is 7 August, you didn’t hear further from Ms Khan on this issue?

[2672] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No. It’s a no to your question because I did have a conversation with her where she expressed to me again that she had problems giving Mr Singh the details. So, I again repeated what I had told her in the phone call.

[2673] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When was this?

[2674] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can’t remember the exact date, but it was after 3 August and before 7 August.

[2675] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Let me now go to 7 August. If you see a stack of papers to the right of the blue file, could you please pick it up? To give you a sense, Mr Nathan, these are documents which Ms Loh had furnished to us yesterday and they contain chats to which you are also privy. So, if I can ask you to please turn to, first of all, the first page. You will see that that is a chat group that you have with Ms Khan and Ms Loh, correct?

[2676] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2677] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And here there's an exchange of information or comments about the speech itself. I would ask you to turn over the page to page 2.

[2678] On page 2, there's a chat exchanged on 7 August and, in the evening, Ms Khan says: "It's probably one of the worst things I've done in my life." And it is not clear who this was responding. I can't really tell. It says: "What did you do, Rae? This sounds scary." Was that from you or Ms Loh?

[2679] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Ms Loh.

[2680] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then she says: "Perhaps if you guys are free tomorrow and come over?" When she says "you guys", it means Ms Loh and yourself?

[2681] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2682] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** "I did something stupid and unnecessary." Ms Loh then says "Is it internal and easy to contain?" Answer: "Yes, if Pritam wishes for it to be. He's the only other person besides my husband to know." "Did you resign?", "I didn't."

[2683] Pausing there for a moment, at this juncture, were you aware of this chat, this discussion?

[2684] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2685] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You were. So, you knew that there was something bad, in her words, that had happened?

[2686] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2687] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** "One of the worst things in my life", as she says. Did you know what it was?

[2688] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2689] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you knew that Ms Khan's husband and Mr Singh were the only people who knew about it, at this juncture?

[2690] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** According to what Ms Khan had informed us, in accordance with that, yes.

[2691] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. I'm told you then had a Zoom meeting with Ms Loh and Ms Khan on the same day?

- [2692] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes, that evening or night, rather.
- [2693] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That evening. So, on 7 August?
- [2694] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2695] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, can you briefly describe what happened at the Zoom meeting?
- [2696] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** At the Zoom meeting, Ms Khan had reiterated that she had done something terrible. Essentially, she told us that it related to the speech that she had made on 3 August and that she had, essentially, lied in her speech about having followed the victim to the Police station. She then broke down and she explained to us the context of the sexual assault that she had experienced, which she relayed to the House on 1 November.
- [2697] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which relate to the?
- [2698] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Which she relayed to the House about the sexual assault on 1 November.
- [2699] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I see. Yes. What else was discussed at the Zoom meeting?
- [2700] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** At the Zoom meeting, I think we had asked her who else knows about this once again, whether she had informed the Party leaders, most importantly, and she said that she had. She had informed Mr Singh prior to our Zoom meeting. And we had a conversation about the assault and she shared that it had occurred overseas during her university days.
- [2701] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What did she say she had informed Mr Singh? I just want to be clear, because when you say “she has informed”, what exactly was it that you understood her to have informed Mr Singh about?
- [2702] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Based on my understanding, I took away that she had informed Mr Singh that she had lied in Parliament. At that juncture, I don’t think I was very certain as to whether she had informed him about the assault.
- [2703] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. But you were clear in your mind, from what she said, that Mr Singh was aware that there was a falsehood said in Parliament on 3 August?
- [2704] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes, according to Ms Khan.
- [2705] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I’d like you to look at the bundle of transcripts, and I wanted to show you what Ms Loh’s reaction was when I asked her about this point. If you could please turn to page 21 [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, Para No 213.*]
- [2706] **Mr Nathan,** these are raw transcripts, in that they have not been edited. So, there are some minor typographical errors and so on which will be corrected eventually. But if you

look at line 15, I asked: “Were you concerned that a statement had been made in Parliament that was not true?” and Ms Loh said: “Yes, I was concerned.” Were you similarly concerned?

[2707] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Of course.

[2708] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. And “Did you give her any views on that?”. Ms Loh said: “I didn’t feel a need to because, as I said, at that point of time she told me, I also had knowledge that our Party leader, Mr Pritam Singh, already knew, and it didn’t feel like I needed to take any further action on that.” Then I asked her whether she was able to describe Mr Nathan’s reaction on the Zoom discussion. So, let me pause there for a moment and ask you two questions.

[2709] Firstly, what was your reaction to being told that Mr Singh was aware and apprised of the situation; and, secondly, depending on what you say to the first question, whether you would also subscribe to Ms Loh’s sentiment that since Mr Singh, as the Party leader, was already aware, she didn’t feel that any further action needed to be taken on that?

[2710] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** So, going back to the first part of your question, you asked me about my reaction to the knowledge that Mr Singh had known. I would say that I was glad – which is a weird word to use, given the very sad circumstances – but I was glad because, at least, the Party leadership knew.

[2711] I think, instinctively – I can speak for myself and I do believe Ms Loh viewed it the same way – we were concerned as to whether the Party leaders knew. Because, obviously, if an MP comes to you and says, “I lied in Parliament”, I think it’s only right that the Party leaders are aware of it and that they investigate the matter.

[2712] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. I think besides feeling glad, I think really what you are saying is you were assuaged that the Party leadership was aware?

[2713] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2714] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And felt that this was in their hands?

[2715] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2716] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you have —

[2717] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Can I clarify? Because you mentioned “Party leadership”. So, in so far as “Party leadership” can refer to one person, in this case, at this point in time, it was Mr Singh.

[2718] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Singh?

[2719] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2720] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Alright, thank you for being precise. So, therefore, I take it that you also would agree with what Ms Loh expressed here?

[2721] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2722] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. If you remember, there was a press conference yesterday by the Workers' Party.

[2723] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2724] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And if you like, I can show you the press report. But if you remember, there was one statement made by Mr Singh that when Ms Khan first discussed it with him, he had to press her for the truth and that she was not forthcoming initially.

[2725] In that context, since you were discussing this with her on 7 August, did you think that she was holding anything back from Mr Singh and not being truthful to Mr Singh?

[2726] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I feel like I can't quite answer that question because I've no first-hand knowledge of exactly what she had told Mr Singh.

[2727] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. I'm asking you based on your own impression being in a Zoom meeting, having a discussion with her; in fact, you had a prior discussion with her on 3 August itself. Of course, at that point in time, you did not know. But now that you are aware and she had made an account to you, you felt glad, assuaged. So, what is your impression? I'm just asking you for that.

[2728] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** My impression was that it was good that she had told Mr Singh and informed him that she had lied. But I think at that point in time, I can understand why Mr Singh said that. Because at that point in time when I heard that – naturally, I think when a MP tells you "I've lied in Parliament", well, my first reaction was, "Why on earth would you do that after everything that we have worked for?" That's first of all.

[2729] Secondly, the question then becomes "Exactly why did you lie in Parliament? What made you think that that was a good idea?" So, in Ms Khan's case, it was related to the sexual assault, and I think, even at that point in time, of course, even though it's natural to —

[2730] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Nathan, I'm sorry to cut you off, maybe I wasn't clear in my question.

[2731] I was just after this, actually. Was there any doubt, as of 7 August, when you had this Zoom conversation with Ms Khan and Ms Loh, was there any doubt that Mr Singh was aware that a falsehood had been said in Parliament by Ms Khan on 3 August, in your mind?

[2732] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** In my mind, based on what Ms Raeesah Khan had told us, no, there was no doubt.

[2733] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you have any reason to believe that Ms Khan, by this time, would be less than honest with Mr Singh about the falsehood?

[2734] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I feel like I can't say a definite "yes" or "no" to that answer, because, as I was about to explain earlier, my own reaction was that, "You did this because of the context of the assault". But I think I hadn't quite understood the thought process in between experiencing that assault, of course, and essentially lying in Parliament.

[2735] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In a way, whilst that is one of the issues, I'm not here exploring the thought process behind the assault, because —

[2736] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright.

[2737] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — it's not germane to my line of questioning. I'm trying to establish if, as of 7 August, Mr Singh was aware that a falsehood had been said in Parliament by Ms Khan.

[2738] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2739] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that, in fact, was the entire premise of having the Zoom conversation in the first place, right? That she had spoken to Mr Singh about it, told him about it and now wanted to discuss it with yourself and Ms Loh?

[2740] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I'm not sure if the premise was that she wanted to discuss it with us because she had discussed it with him first. It was more of I think she just wanted to —

[2741] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Apprise you and Ms Loh of the fact that she had told him?

[2742] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No, that she had told a lie in the first place.

[2743] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And told him?

[2744] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** And when we had questioned her, she said that she had told him.

[2745] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And in that context, you used the word “glad”, and I said “assuaged”, and you agreed, right?

[2746] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2747] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Ms Khan then said that, the next day, she had arranged to meet with Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Sylvia Lim at Mr Pritam Singh's home. Were you aware of this meeting before it took place?

[2748] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2749] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you do know that they met on the next day on 8 August at Mr Singh's home at some stage, right?

[2750] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I was aware on 8 August that she had had a conversation with Mr Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Faisal Manap. But I'm not aware of when that conversation had occurred exactly.

[2751] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.

[2752] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** My impression was that it was between, certainly between 3 August and 8 August, inclusive of 8 August.

[2753] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Well, put it this way, Mr Nathan. You had a conversation with Ms Khan on 7 August, quite late in the evening, after 7.00 pm, right?

[2754] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2755] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And as of that date, she didn't tell you that there was a meeting with Mr Manap and Ms Lim?

[2756] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2757] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it couldn't have taken place prior to that, right?

[2758] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Unless she omitted that information, but I would —

[2759] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Don't speculate. As far as you know —

[2760] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** As far as I know —

[2761] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She didn't mention it to you, right?

[2762] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2763] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. In fact, in the context of the kind of discussion you were having on Zoom, it would have been natural for her to have said it to you if there was such a meeting, right?

[2764] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2765] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The next day, at about 12.30 pm, she sent a text, including to you. If you can pick up the same bundle again, you will see it. Where we left off earlier, you just go further down the page.

[2766] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2767] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 8 August, at 12.41 pm, she updates. She says, "Hey, guys ...", and I think this time round, you're on the chat, right?

[2768] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** The chat group only consisted of the three of us.

[2769] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, okay. It, therefore, means she's addressing it to Ms Loh and yourself?

[2770] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2771] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** "I just met with Pritam, Sylvia and Faisal...". "I just met", so, meaning sometime on 8 August?

[2772] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Possibly, yes. I would assume that's a reasonable interpretation of what she said.

[2773] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What is your interpretation when you received this message on 8 August, 12.41 pm: "I just met with Pritam, Sylvia and Faisal"?

[2774] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** That it was that morning.

[2775] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Thank you. I'm not trying to find ways to trip you up on language. I'm just trying to get to the facts. So, I have had to establish – because you started by telling me sometime between 3 and 7 August. So, I have had to establish that it could not have been between 3 and 7 August, 7.00 pm, because there was a Zoom, there was this message. So, I don't think we are trying to play games in terms of the language.

[2776] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No, I totally accept your point, yes.

[2777] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And if you have any need for a clarification, please stop me and I'll show you the transcripts, I'll show what Ms Khan and Ms Loh said. I'm not trying to put words in their mouth. In fact, I put the transcript in front of you so that you know exactly what they said, and then I'll ask you on that premise. Okay?

[2778] So, on 8 August, sometime before 12.41 pm, there was a meeting. Ms Khan has given evidence that this took place at Mr Singh's house, for your information.

[2779] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Okay.

[2780] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** "And we spoke about the Muslim issues and the Police accusation. I told them what I told you guys, and they agreed that the best thing to do is to take the information to the grave. They also suggested that I write a statement to send out this evening."

[2781] When you received this message, what was your takeaway, what was your impression of this message?

[2782] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** My impression was that, I was surprised because I assumed that when Ms Khan had informed them, that they would investigate the matter further. And, so, when they said that they would take it to the grave, as Ms Khan had put it, I was surprised by that.

[2783] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Your understanding of the phrase "take it to the grave" means "don't clarify the truth and let it be", correct?

[2784] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2785] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'd like to show you what Ms Khan said to me when I asked her about the same occasion. So, if you could please pick up that bundle, and please, Mr Nathan, look at page 160. I wanted to give you the context so that you know, finally, where the questions would come from.

[2786] So, the context starts at line 8 or 9. The meeting was at Mr Pritam Singh's house, she says. And then I said, "On this occasion, Ms Lim and Mr Manap were present?" She says, "Yes." I asked her at line 13, "Did you put in clear terms to them as well that the statement you had made was false?" Answer, "Yes." "Could they have misunderstood?" "No, they could not." "What was their reaction to this?" Answer by Ms Khan, "It was incredible disappointment. There was a lot of anger but I think there was some compassion there as well. The reaction was that if I were not to be pressed, then the best thing to do would be to retain the narrative that I began in August." I said, "Let me understand the last statement. You said if you were not going to be pressed and then you take the narrative that you started in August?" "Yes. "It means if we can get away with it, we don't need to clarify the lie, correct?" Ms Khan says, "I think, in the simplest terms, yes, you are correct."

[2787] So, it was in this context that I asked Ms Khan then what did she communicate to yourself and to Ms Loh. And if you go over the page, at page 162, I then asked, "Did you discuss this with Ms Loh thereafter?" She says, "Yes, I did." "In those discussions, did you give an account of what happened?" "Yes, I did." "Would that be by messages?" "Yes, that would be by messages." "And those messages would capture the thrust of what you had discussed with Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim?" Then she says, "Yes."

[2788] And then I asked her whether those messages at line 19 "would have been contemporaneous, meaning they would have been roughly around the same time as when you concluded the meeting with the three of them?" She answered, "Yes."

[2789] So, this was Ms Khan's takeaway from it. I know you were not there at the meeting. So, I'm not going to ask you about what you perceived of that meeting, but would your impression or your takeaway from receiving this message that we have just seen on 8 August, at 12.41 pm be consistent with what Ms Khan had told us yesterday? In other words, that if you are not pressed for any answer on this, you can let it be and don't have to clarify?

[2790] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** That is the impression that I got from her message, based on her message as reflected in the screenshot here.

[2791] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. Ms Loh and Ms Khan told us that after this occasion on 8 August, there was not much, if at all, discussion on this issue for the next six weeks or so. Would that also be your recollection?

[2792] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2793] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** "Six weeks or so" meaning until around 3 October?

[2794] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** 3 October —

[2795] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I will come to the October Sitting in Parliament in a moment.

[2796] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Okay.

[2797] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I just want to get your evidence as to whether between 8 August and roughly 3 October, there were any other discussion, meetings, chats, concerning this issue.

[2798] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Not with myself involved or with Ms Loh. As in the three of us didn't meet to discuss this issue. In fact, we were discussing the other issue on Muslim issues which occupied the second part of her speech.

[2799] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, okay, I understand. But besides that, on the question of the false anecdote, was there any discussion?

[2800] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I don't recall any discussion.

[2801] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. If Ms Khan had a separate discussion with Mr Singh, Mr Manap or Ms Lim, would it be your expectation that she would update you and Ms Loh?

[2802] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Do you mean during that period of time?

[2803] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, just as she did when she went to have a meeting on 8 August. She sent you a message almost immediately after.

[2804] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2805] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, my question is, the two of you, on a group chat with her, from what I can gather from both Ms Khan and Ms Loh, the three of you are quite tight and you do spend some time discussing these issues. Ms Loh said she cared for Ms Khan's well-being and was concerned with her, given that she felt that making a false statement in Parliament was serious. So, it is in that context I'm asking whether you would expect that if Ms Khan had any further interaction with any of the three in the Workers' Party who were aware of the falsehood, whether she would have updated you.

[2806] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I don't think she would have necessarily updated us during that period of time simply because, most of the time, we're not privy to conversations that MPs have with the leadership of the Party unless they choose to share it with us. But I would imagine that, at some point, she would have shared that.

[2807] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, as of now, you're not aware of any discussion that she might have had with the Workers' Party – three of the Workers' Party senior leaders who met her on 8 August – between 8 August and sometime in early October, right?

[2808] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Actually —

[2809] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** As far as you know.

[2810] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Are you asking me in relation to a particular point in time, from my point of view, or as of now?

[2811] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, either now or at that time. That's your frame of mind. Okay?

[2812] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Okay.

[2813] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The relevant date period would be 8 August, which is the date on which this message was sent, until 3 October, which is the eve of the next Parliamentary Sitting in October. So, this is the date range. Almost two months.

[2814] My question is: did you know then or do you know now of any discussion that Ms Khan may have had with either Mr Singh, Ms Lim or Mr Manap concerning the false anecdote said in Parliament?

[2815] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I believe as of 3 August, as well as —

[2816] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Nathan, 8 August, the time marker, and 3 October is the other marker.

[2817] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** My apologies. I meant, 3 October, sorry. As of 3 October, as well as 4 October, at that point in time, I was not aware that she had had a conversation with the Party leaders, from what I recall.

[2818] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. As of now, do you know of any discussion that Ms Khan may have had with the Party leaders, those three in question, in this time zone?

[2819] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2820] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You are aware?

[2821] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2822] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Tell us which date she had a meeting or discussion with the Party leaders.

[2823] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** The date that I recall is 3 October, on the eve of 4 October Parliamentary Sitting.

[2824] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Prior to 3 October, in this date range, are you aware of any other meetings or discussions that she had with the three Party leaders?

[2825] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't recall, I honestly can't recall now. But I think, perhaps, I could get back to you if that's something that you would like to hear from me in future.

[2826] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Again, I'm not trying to surprise you or trick you. So, please don't look like you're very worried. I'm trying to establish your frame of mind. And Ms Khan had told us that there were no discussions. Ms Loh had told us that because that was the decision that was passed down, and it was in pretty clear terms, that was how it was left off. Ms Khan's impression was, as she told me, "If I'm not pressed, we let the lie remain; no need to clarify the truth", and she was not pressed and, so, nothing happened in this period of time. I'm just trying to get your recollection of the same occasion.

[2827] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I would say that I have no recollection of myself having been informed of a meeting before 3 October.

[2828] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That is as far as Ms Khan is concerned. There is one occasion which Ms Loh referred us to where this issue briefly came into play, and that was on 10 August. I will just show you what she said to me and I will see whether you recall. So, if you could please pick up the bundle again.

[2829] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2830] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And please turn to page 128. Somewhere around the middle of the page, Ms Loh was responding to a question from me concerning some of the press reports from yesterday. If you could quickly cast your eye over the next few lines, she says: “Admittedly, I was not privy to the specifics of the conversation between Ms Khan and Mr Singh ...”, and so on. Line 24: “So, when Ms Khan told me on 7 August the truth, I had a meeting with Mr Pritam Singh on 10 August on a separate matter and while we were waiting”, your name was omitted from this, but she referred to you here, I don’t know why she said: “poor Mr Nathan was also with me at this meeting about a separate matter. We are good friends, okay. Briefly, Mr Pritam Singh confirmed that he knew, with me.” This was Ms Loh’s account. I’m now asking for your recollection of this account.

[2831] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** So, what had happened was that I was informed by Ms Loh that Mr Pritam Singh had wanted to meet the two of us on 10 August, but the thing is he hadn’t told us why he wanted to meet us. So, we had assumed that, perhaps, because we found out on 7 August, so, we thought, okay, perhaps he wanted to discuss this with us or to find out our views, or to find out, perhaps, what we had known or had heard from Ms Khan.

[2832] But it actually turned out that when we met Mr Singh, the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss another Party matter, completely unrelated, which he wanted our input on. But on the sidelines of that meeting, we did discuss Ms Khan having, essentially, told us that – having come clean.

[2833] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What does that mean, “having come clean”?

[2834] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** “Having come clean”, in the sense, admitted that she lied.

[2835] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Having admitted that she lied in Parliament?

[2836] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2837] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you describe the nature of the conversation that you had with Mr Singh, with Ms Loh?

[2838] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** From what I recall, we, of course, expressed disappointment that Ms Khan had lied and shocked. But I think, from what I recall, Ms Loh and Mr Singh were talking about how—or, rather, Ms Loh was telling Mr Singh that sexual assault victims do experience trauma and that can sometimes make them, in some circumstances, be less likely to want to tell the truth, out of fear, perhaps. I remember Ms Loh saying that this was a point that she wanted to communicate to Mr Singh, just from her own. Ms Loh happens to be someone who has good knowledge about issues of women’s rights and sexual assault cases in Singapore.

[2839] And so, just to summarise, my understanding of that meeting, as it relates to the lie, was that we were all on the same page in terms of knowing that she had lied to Parliament and in terms of knowing that she had cited the sexual assault as her reason for that.

[2840] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** A few questions. Did Mr Singh tell you or Ms Loh that Ms Khan had to come to Parliament at the next Sitting to clarify the lie?

[2841] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2842] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did Mr Singh say to you that it was important for Ms Khan to quickly inform her family of the sexual assault incident so that she could then proceed to clear up the lie in Parliament?

[2843] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2844] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did Mr Singh discuss with either yourself or Ms Loh any steps to be taken in relation to the clarification of the lie, perhaps, outside of Parliament, on social media, on other platforms that you might have had?

[2845] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2846] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right, thank you.

[2847] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Thank you.

[2848] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, if I understand your evidence correctly, between 8 August and 2 October, as far as you know, there were no discussions between Ms Khan and the senior leadership of the Workers' Party, comprising Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim?

[2849] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** As far as I know, no.

[2850] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** As far as you were involved, this occasion we've just gone through on 10 August was the only occasion where you had occasion to discuss with Mr Singh or anyone else in the Workers' Party senior leadership about this issue?

[2851] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No, that's not true, because —

[2852] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, tell me.

[2853] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Okay. So, essentially, the first time was on 10 August, at that meeting with Ms Loh. The second time, the next time we discussed it was on 12 October.

[2854] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, okay. Mr Nathan, I asked you about 8 August until 2 October.

[2855] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I do apologise. So, in that case, no.

[2856] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, thank you. I will come to 12 October in a moment, but I'm just following the chronology. On 3 October – again, I know you were not present and you only learned about it subsequently, and I think it was around 12 October?

[2857] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** It was on 12 October, yes.

[2858] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Just have that as a marker for the time being. But based on what you found out on 12 October, on 3 October, Mr Singh went to visit Ms Khan at her home, right?

[2859] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes.

[2860] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Were you aware of what they had discussed?

[2861] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Only insofar as Mr Singh had relayed it to us. “Us” meaning Ms Loh and I, at his residence on 12 October.

[2862] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Did Mr Singh tell you that he discussed with Ms Khan the possibility that the issue might arise in Parliament on the next day, 4 October?

[2863] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes.

[2864] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: And did he discuss with you – maybe it’s best I show you Ms Khan’s recollection, and then I’ll ask you whether it comports with what you discussed with Mr Singh, so that I don’t put words in her mouth, okay?

[2865] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Okay.

[2866] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Page 153 of this transcript. So, at the top, you will see I started with some questions, and then I referred her to, I think, this was in the context of some press statements made yesterday, and I’d like you to focus on line 13: “Can you remember the occasion at which you were asked to clarify the statement before the October Sitting?” Ms Khan says at line 16: “Before the October Sitting, I had a conversation with Leader of the Opposition, Pritam Singh, and the conversation was that if I were to retain the narrative or if I were to continue the narrative, there would be no judgement.” “Can you tell us which date this took place?”, “3 October”, “Where did this take place?”, “In my house.”

[2867] Would Ms Khan’s account of it here be consistent with what Mr Singh informed you?

[2868] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes.

[2869] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Okay. Keeping with the chronology, on 4 October, there was a Parliamentary Sitting. Ms Khan then proceeds to Parliament and Minister Shanmugam raised several questions to Ms Khan. Ms Khan had accepted that her answers – at least some of her answers to Minister Shanmugam’s questions – were untrue. I think you would be aware of which statements they were. If you would like, I can take you through it, but I think it’s a matter of record what she said on 1 November to Minister Indranee.

[2870] As far as you are aware, at the time these statements were made, which were false, the only people who were aware that they were false at that time would be Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim, correct?

[2871] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: In terms of the —

[2872] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: False anecdote.

[2873] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** — WP Parliamentary Party, then yes. Apart from that, it would have been Ms Loh, myself and Ms Khan’s husband.

[2874] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, what I meant was in Parliament.

[2875] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright, yes.

[2876] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The only people you are aware of who would be aware that it was false were Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim, right?

[2877] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2878] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you aware that after—let me back up a little bit. Did you speak to Ms Khan either before or after the speech was made? Did she call you, did you call her, did you text her?

[2879] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** On 4 October, I don’t think we had, I don’t recall having had a conversation with her. It’s possible that we might have had, but I might have forgotten it.

[2880] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you think carefully and see whether you are able to verify with your phone, if it goes back that far, whether you spoke to her or she spoke to you. or whether you had exchanged messages either before she spoke in Parliament or after.

[2881] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Certainly after, but I don’t think it was on 4 October.

[2882] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give me a rough idea of when you spoke with her?

[2883] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I spoke with her – from my recollection – either on 12 October or just before.

[2884] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And what was the gist of that conversation?

[2885] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Ms Khan had given me a phone call and she said, “Yudhish, Pritam and Sylvia want me to come clean to Parliament and I think that I want to do so as well.” That’s essentially what she told me.

[2886] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That was just before 12 October, which triggered the meeting that you had?

[2887] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2888] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But shortly after the speech was made, was there any discussion that you had with her?

[2889] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can’t recall now.

[2890] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Could you please check, maybe later on when you have your phone, either in terms of the messages, on whichever platform you normally communicate, and also your phone logs, okay?

- [2891] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright.
- [2892] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you aware that after she made the speech in Parliament, Ms Khan had a meeting with Mr Singh and Ms Lim in Parliament, in the LO office?
- [2893] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Could you repeat your question? Sorry.
- [2894] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, of course. Were you aware that, after she made the speech in Parliament, Ms Khan had a meeting with Mr Singh and Ms Lim in Parliament in the LO office?
- [2895] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** This is the speech on 3 August?
- [2896] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** 4 October.
- [2897] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** On 4 October, no, I was not fully aware.
- [2898] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So that I'm clear, between 4 October and this conversation that you said took place around 12 October, were there other discussions you had with Ms Khan on this issue?
- [2899] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't recall.
- [2900] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you have any discussions with anyone else on this issue?
- [2901] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't recall. I don't think so.
- [2902] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Perhaps, I mean, I don't expect you to remember offhand, but maybe you can check your phone logs again and maybe the messages —
- [2903] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright.
- [2904] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — to see if that jogs any memory of any discussions on this, okay? Let's go to 12 October now. You would have had a call from Ms Khan.
- [2905] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2906] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She says she wants to come and explain and clarify in Parliament. Ms Loh told us that yourself and Ms Loh then asked to see Mr Singh?
- [2907] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2908] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you tell us why you made the request to see Mr Singh?
- [2909] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Of course, it was good that she wanted to come clean, but we were concerned – or at least I was concerned on two fronts. The first was more of a concern of how she would make an apology, what information she would share in doing so. So, for example, my take was that if she were to tell Parliament that she lied to Parliament, it would also be important that she explains the reasons as to why she lied to Parliament.

[2910] But Ms Loh and I, because we were very well aware of Ms Khan's anxiety over the matter and her mental health, we knew that even though it was important – and, of course, we believed that it was important for her to explain the reason – that it would be important for her to also be sure that she's comfortable explaining and, essentially, telling the whole country that she was sexually assaulted. So, we just wanted to have a conversation with Mr Singh about that.

[2911] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, that evening, you had a meeting with Mr Singh, right, Ms Loh and yourself?

[2912] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2913] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was Ms Khan present?

[2914] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2915] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you report to Ms Khan what was discussed and what had transpired?

[2916] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2917] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You did. What did you tell her?

[2918] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I would have told her that – what did I tell her? I think I would have told her that Mr Singh had relayed to us what he had told her on 3 October, yes.

[2919] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's the conversation I showed you earlier about retaining the narrative that there would be no judgement, right?

[2920] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2921] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's the one, okay. So, you told Ms Khan that this is what Mr Singh told you he had told her on 3 October?

[2922] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2923] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Am I clear enough?

[2924] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2925] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Besides that, was there anything else of significance that happened on 12 October?

[2926] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** On 3 October —

[2927] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** 12, sorry.

[2928] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** On 12 October, of significance, no. That was the thing that struck me the most.

- [2929] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.
- [2930] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Oh, I have added earlier that we were there to talk about just making sure that Mr Singh had also spoken to Ms Khan about her comfort level of bringing up the assault and also the importance of bringing up the assault to Parliament in her explanation. So, that was what we were there to talk about.
- [2931] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** With Mr Singh?
- [2932] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2933] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And the importance of that, I would say there are at least two angles to that. First, the importance of that would be to explain why there was a lie?
- [2934] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2935] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the other would, obviously, be to explain or try to give an explanation as to why and how she came to know of this account?
- [2936] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2937] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** As I understand it, the way in which she put the explanation, it was because she was assaulted, she was herself part of the group, in that context, she heard about it?
- [2938] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2939] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, so, that was the construct of the explanation, so to speak, right?
- [2940] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2941] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. After 12 October, there would have been various attempts to draft the statement that she would eventually deliver on 1 November, right?
- [2942] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2943] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm told that you did not draft it, but you gave input?
- [2944] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [2945] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you just describe the process to me?
- [2946] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Okay.
- [2947] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What did you do; who else gave you input; what comments came in; what was the nature of the edits that were sought to be made to this statement?

[2948] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** So, first of all, Ms Loh and I gave inputs, just like how we've been giving inputs and just like how other members give inputs to MPs' speeches in Parliament from time to time when we're asked to help or, indeed, if we offer to help. So, as in other cases and like in this case, the nature of the inputs were of, say, improving the flow of the language, making sure that we could read it and understand what she meant. So, if we didn't understand what she meant, we would tell her, "Okay, maybe you could be a bit clearer about this part. Maybe you could rearrange certain paragraphs so that the flow is better."

[2949] So, we were involved primarily in that regard, but also Mr Singh and Ms Lim were involved in the drafting of the statement. But I should add that the statement that she put to the House, in terms of the material contents of the statement, those were all Ms Khan's views.

[2950] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How was this draft edited? Did you all sit down together in one place or did you send it by comments, was it in writing?

[2951] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** It was in writing – pen and paper.

[2952] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Pen and paper?

[2953] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2954] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you meet physically?

[2955] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** We did meet physically. I can't remember how many times.

[2956] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it was a pen-and-paper process?

[2957] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2958] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Written on drafts?

[2959] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2960] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And coming together to meet with each other to discuss the edits?

[2961] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes. So, essentially, Ms Loh and I, we were there. We contributed to some of the edits, but my understanding is that there were drafts going between Ms Khan and Mr Singh or, rather, Ms Khan would report her draft to Mr Singh.

[2962] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.

[2963] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** So, there were quite a number of drafts.

[2964] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How many meetings were there?

[2965] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't remember the number of meetings.

[2966] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That you attended, how many?

[2967] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't remember the exact number, but one meeting does stand out because, at that meeting, all of us were present – Ms Khan, Mr Singh, Ms Lim, Ms Loh and myself.

[2968] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At least one meeting, all of you were present?

[2969] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2970] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But there were other meetings where not all of you were present?

[2971] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** There were other meetings. The reason why I can't remember is because Ms Loh, Ms Khan and myself, we had communicated back and forth about Ms Khan's concerns about her language in the draft. So, I can't remember how many meetings we might have had.

[2972] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Based on these discussions, the meetings, the comments, the edits that you're aware of, would you say that the eventual draft that was delivered by Ms Khan on 1 November was something that Mr Singh and Ms Lim were comfortable with?

[2973] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2974] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because they gave their input, and you said there were many drafts, presumably to reflect the different edits?

[2975] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2976] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Prior to this call that you had with Ms Khan, I think you said on 12 October, or perhaps shortly before that, where she said "I'm going to clarify the statement and tell the truth now", were you aware of any other occasion on which she had articulated that desire or that intention prior to 12 October?

[2977] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Prior to 12 October, not very explicitly, but Ms Loh and I had had conversations with her.

[2978] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because, as Ms Loh had put it to me yesterday, her sense was that it is better to come clean in Parliament about the falsehood?

[2979] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2980] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was that also your view?

[2981] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes, and also Ms Loh had the view that Ms Khan should account to the WP CEC.

[2982] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, she did tell us that.

[2983] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2984] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But that was something between the three of you?

[2985] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2986] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But on any other occasion, did Ms Khan, to your knowledge, say to the Workers' Party leadership that she was going to clarify the truth prior to 12 October?

[2987] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No, not to my knowledge.

[2988] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you aware of any occasion on which the Workers' Party senior leadership, any one of them, telling Ms Khan to do so prior to 12 October?

[2989] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Prior to 12 October, instructing her, telling her, no.

[2990] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In the press conference yesterday, there were several articles which picked up Mr Singh's comment to the press where he had said, and I'm quoting this from memory – and my colleague will try and find the relevant portion – where he had characterised the instruction to Ms Khan to clarify the untruths in the October Sitting of Parliament as an order. In inverted commas, “an order”. To your knowledge, was this something that Ms Khan had shared with you?

[2991] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[2992] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** From your interaction with Ms Khan, and I'm talking about starting from 8 August, we went through that, all the way through 3 October, 4 October and you said that there might have been a conversation just before 12 October. In this period of time, it would have been inconsistent for there to have been such an order for Ms Khan to clarify in Parliament in October, would it not?

[2993] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** It would have been inconsistent, yes.

[2994] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because we are talking about a message that was sent which says “take the information to the grave” in August. Nothing was heard thereafter for the next six weeks. In October, there was a discussion which says “you retain the narrative, there will be no judgement on you”. On 4 October, the statement was repeated in Parliament. In fact, Ms Khan defended the position, as it turned out, falsely. But three members of the senior leadership of the Workers' Party were present in Parliament at least on 4 October when the statement was made.

[2995] So, in that context, I think you would agree with me that any suggestion that prior to the Sitting on 4 October, that there was an order for Ms Khan to clarify the falsehoods in Parliament in October would be untenable, right?

[2996] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[2997] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Earlier on, I talked about the CNA article. I just want, for completeness, to read it to you so that you understand where I'm coming from. This is what

I read to Ms Loh yesterday as well. There was an article which quotes Mr Singh yesterday as saying—sorry, Mr Nathan, just give me a moment.

[2998] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No worries.

[2999] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sorry, give me a minute or two, okay?

[3000] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No worries at all.

[3001] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I will find it. Okay, I found it. Can you please turn to page 131 of the bundle. To give you the context, at 130, I was quoting from a CNA report. I said that at page 130, line 3 and line 4. So, I read various portions.

[3002] The portion I would like you to focus on is at 131, where I said at line 10: “Let me quote another portion to you. When asked why the claim was allowed to remain,” I think the word is unchecked or unclarified, “Mr Pritam Singh said”, and I quote, ““Each is a leader in his or her own right, and if you have done something wrong, it is your responsibility to set the record right. But only Raeesah knew the truth of what she had said and what she had experienced, and it is up to her to clarify the record. And I think that would have been adequately communicated through her personally.””

[3003] And in one of the answers in response to a query from the press, Mr Singh used the word “order”, that why she didn’t follow orders to clarify the falsehood. And let me just read it to you. It says, if you go to the same bundle at 132, bottom of the page, I’ll go on to say that the press then asked Mr Singh some questions, and this is what the report says, and I will read it to you, in response to questions over why Ms Khan did not follow orders to clarify the matter in October, Mr Singh said, “Why she didn’t take heed of that instruction, why did she ignore it, this is not a question I can answer.”

[3004] So, it was in that context that I had asked you those questions and I think I’ve got your answers on the record. So, thank you very much.

[3005] Just to pick up on the chronology again, in the WhatsApp chats that Ms Loh had given to us, there was one reference to a 22 October meeting to discuss the draft of the statement that would be delivered in Parliament. So, I take it that, at least on that day, there was such a meeting and Mr Singh says to Ms Loh, “Let Yudhish know as well.” That, presumably, is you, and you were present at the meeting. So, at least on 22 October, there was such a meeting, correct?

[3006] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes. So, that was the meeting that I referred to earlier.

[3007] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, where you met together and I think Mr Singh was present, Ms Lim was present?

[3008] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3009] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you exchanged comments on the draft, and there were some handwritten notes and settled on the drafting?

[3010] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3011] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I assume, after that, there would have been further editions to it, right?

[3012] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** After that, there were further editions, but Ms Loh and I were not aware of all of those editions.

[3013] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. The next date in the timeline is on 1 November, when Ms Khan makes a speech in Parliament. Did you watch that speech?

[3014] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3015] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you followed the series of questions that followed thereafter?

[3016] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** By the Leader of the House.

[3017] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** By the Leader of the House?

[3018] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3019] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, thereafter, the Workers' Party issued a statement from the Secretary-General. Are you familiar with that?

[3020] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3021] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Loh told us that she felt that the statement – and I think it's a point we'll get to when we talk about when you went with her to see the Disciplinary Panel – she felt that the statement could be broader and could inform the public of the details that were already known to the senior leadership of the Workers' Party at that point in time. Is that something you would agree with as well?

[3022] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** It does pain me to say this, because it relates to my own Party senior leadership, but my answer is “yes”.

[3023] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the reason you say “yes” is because the statement issued immediately after 1 November, when Ms Khan made her speech, in fact, shortly after that, the tenor of that statement appears to draw a line between what she did – what she knew and what she did – and the rest of the Party. Would that be a fair statement?

[3024] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Can you repeat that again? I'm very sorry.

[3025] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sure. I said the reason you said “yes” is because the statement issued immediately after 1 November appears to draw a line between what Ms Khan did and knew, and the rest of the Party. And I asked whether that would be a fair statement.

[3026] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I don't quite understand what you mean by “with the rest of the Party”.

[3027] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It seems to suggest that no one else was involved in managing this process, no one else was involved in understanding and knowing that this was

untrue. It appeared to suggest that, “Hey, this is the first time we became aware of it as well” and “You know what? An MP should not be speaking untruth in Parliament.”

[3028] There was no suggestion that, actually, from a very early stage, Ms Khan had informed her senior Party leaders, worked with them to devise a solution, listened to them, sought their counsel and acted in accordance with the guidance that they had given. That’s where I’m coming from. Would you agree with that?

[3029] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes.

[3030] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: On 2 November, the Workers’ Party set up a Disciplinary Panel. Were you surprised that there was a Disciplinary Panel set up?

[3031] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: I was surprised that it was set up at that point in time.

[3032] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: And the reason you were surprised is because, if there was discipline to be meted out, it ought to have been an inquiry that should have been done earlier?

[3033] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes.

[3034] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Correct? Because the very people who sit on that Disciplinary Panel, the same three people were the same three people who were aware, as of 8 August, some three months prior to this, that what she had said in Parliament was false and that she had continued to repeat this falsehood two months later. And I think that’s where you’re coming from, correct?

[3035] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes.

[3036] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: On 4 November, it’s Deepavali, Ms Loh informs us that she was present at Ms Khan’s home. Were you also there?

[3037] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: On 4 November, I can’t remember if it was on that particular date, but Ms Loh and I did pay a visit to Ms Khan.

[3038] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Okay. Were you aware of many visits to Ms Khan’s home with Ms Loh? Because if not, then it’s likely that they are accurate that this was Deepavali. She was quite clear about that.

[3039] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: We didn’t have many visits to Ms Khan’s home. So, it was probably that.

[3040] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Probably?

[3041] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: But I hesitate to confirm, because I celebrate Deepavali and I didn’t celebrate this year. But I would have thought that, okay, I would have remembered that it would have been on that day.

[3042] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: I understand where you’re coming from. But she told us that, well, first of all, Ms Khan was down and she wanted to be with her; and, secondly, she

was also aware that Ms Khan had been summoned to see the DP and she had also been asked to provide some evidence. Do you recall that?

[3043] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes.

[3044] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: And the purpose of that visit was, well, first of all, to be with her and comfort her; and, secondly, to discuss the nature of the proceedings that would take place and what position she might take.

[3045] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: I would say that our purpose really was the former, just to keep her company, but, naturally, because this was forthcoming, we discussed it.

[3046] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Okay, I understand. I want to get to 25 November but, before I do that, I'd just like to ask if you remember any occasion of significance concerning either the false anecdote, or the Disciplinary Panel, or anything that arises from the speech on 1 November, anything of significance between 4 November and 25 November.

[3047] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Between 4 November and 25 November?

[3048] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Yes, 4 November meaning what I regard as a meeting at her home on Deepavali, which you may or may not agree to, and then 25 November, which I believe is a date which yourself and Ms Loh went to see the DP.

[3049] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: The only thing of significance that I remember was a message that we got on 10 November.

[3050] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Inviting you to make submissions?

[3051] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: To all Workers' Party members to make submissions.

[3052] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Okay. Besides that?

[3053] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Besides that, I can't remember anything particularly significant. But I should add that there were quite a number of things, a number of conversations that were going on. Because, naturally, Ms Khan was worried about what the Disciplinary Panel would find.

[3054] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Yes.

[3055] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: I do remember that Ms Loh had contacted Mr Singh, because she had expressed to him and she had expressed to me the same concerns, that she was worried about the nature of the sessions with the members because the membership didn't have what we understood to be in the fuller picture.

[3056] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Okay.

[3057] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: And so, it would be a bit odd for members to share views about, because they're supposed to be investigating her discipline with regard to the lie, but —

[3058] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: I understand where you're coming from, Mr Nathan, and I think I also understand Ms Loh's reservation. The point is this: you have three members of the senior Party leadership. They are the ones on the Disciplinary Panel. Essentially, they are the ones who would decide Ms Khan's fate, right? Make recommendations to the CEC.

[3059] They are also the same three who were the first and, up to that point in time in November, the only people in Workers' Party to know that what Ms Khan said in Parliament was false and had given advice and met with her, and were aware that she had acted in a manner which is consistent with that advice. And so, not disclosing this, when you invite a broader spectrum of party members, activists, volunteers to come and give a view, would only be inviting a slanted and jaundiced view, correct?

[3060] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Can I respond to that in three parts, based on what you just said? The first is that I think you mentioned that they ultimately have—let me rephrase, because I don't want to misquote you. But you suggested that the three of them would have decided her fate. I think, technically, if she hadn't resigned, then it would have been the CEC, technically, but I think the three of them would have had influence simply because —

[3061] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: What I meant was, if you look at the terms of reference given to the DP, they are supposed to fact-find and make recommendations as to what to do with her to the CEC.

[3062] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: So, in my view, the DP is almost analogous to this Committee, in that, eventually, you would come up with a recommended penalty and then, just as how Parliament would debate the Report of this Committee, the CEC would then debate the findings of the DP and vote on that recommended penalty. So, that's the first thing.

[3063] The second that you mentioned was that, the three of them were the only ones in the WP to have had knowledge. Technically, Ms Loh and I did as well, so WP leadership —

[3064] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Sorry, I may not have said it, but I meant the senior leadership of WP.

[3065] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes. And, thirdly, on the issue of whether members would have had a slanted view, I think Ms Loh and I were concerned that they would have had an uninformed view.

[3066] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Well, we use different words, but I think we all know "uninformed view", because if you don't know that the people leading the inquiry had, in fact, given advice to the very person under enquiry and that person acted in accordance with the advice, rightly or wrongly, that would be an uninformed view, it would be maybe even a biased view, correct?

[3067] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: Yes.

[3068] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: And I think that's where your and Ms Loh's reservations were. That if you invited a broader Party discussion on this, without informing people of these facts, you would, naturally, have a very different view and characterisation of the conduct, right?

[3069] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3070] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, in many ways, not dissimilar to what this tribunal or this panel or this Committee here is doing, if Ms Khan had acted on her own volition, suppressed information, kept it away from anybody else, on a frolic of her own, that's one state of mind. It would be a very different state of mind if one made a mistake, consulted with senior Party leaders, owned up to it in a full and frank fashion, sought advice and counsel, got that advice and counsel, acted in a manner completely consistent with that counsel, and then be subject to an inquiry by that very same people who had given her advice.

[3071] I think that's the heart of the matter that I'm getting to, Mr Nathan, and I think you understand what I'm saying. That, I think, creates, in your words, "an uninformed", a biased, and I would say, completely jaundiced; and I would add further, I would say self-serving Disciplinary Panel by the Workers' Party. Would you agree?

[3072] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think that in the context of everything that did transpire and did occur, it does pain me to say this, but I would agree.

[3073] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. I understand where you're coming from and I thank you for your candour. But it is important for this tribunal to appreciate the gravamen of the situation and to understand the relative culpability of the different individuals and the circumstances. And I think that's what this inquiry is here for. And I appreciate your assistance and your candour for this.

[3074] To just make sure that we close the loop on the earlier point, Ms Loh told me that she had sat with you and prepared for this meeting on 25 November before you went to see the DP. Would that be right?

[3075] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't remember if we sat down physically or if we had just communicated.

[3076] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sorry, I don't mean physically sat down but at least had a meeting of minds and consensus on what you would present to the DP, right?

[3077] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3078] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And if you could please look at the bundle, at page 91, line 11, it's a long statement or series of statements from Ms Loh. So, if you could just cast your eye over it, I won't read it. But she basically starts by saying: "We came prepared with a few points." And I think the "we" refers to you as well.

[3079] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3080] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she made a number of points there. I just wanted to get your confirmation that what she said from line 11 all the way through to the next page, to page 92, line 23, you would agree with, because I then made the further point that: "Mr Nathan made the same points as you?" And she said: "Yes, we made it together."

[3081] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** May I be allowed some time to read?

[3082] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course, I was just going to tell you what I was getting to and then give you some time to read it.

[3083] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright. I've read it and I agree with what Ms Loh shared with this Committee.

[3084] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Thank you very much, Mr Nathan.

[3085] One of the points made to the Committee quite strongly, and I think Ms Loh articulated it in very passionate terms, was that Ms Khan ought not be made to resign or be expelled from the Party. That's the point that you also made.

[3086] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Can you repeat that last bit because of the sound of the door? Sorry.

[3087] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'll repeat it to you.

[3088] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I do apologise.

[3089] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No problem. I said one of the points made to the Committee quite strongly, and I think Ms Loh articulated it very passionately, was that Ms Khan should not be made to resign or be expelled from the Party. Would that be something you agree with as well?

[3090] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I was of the view that Ms Khan should have continued as an MP, in spite of the mistakes that she had made. But I was also personally of the view that if the CEC had decided that she should be expelled, then so be it.

[3091] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you aware of the meetings or interviews that Ms Khan had with the DP?

[3092] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3093] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you share what you know and also how you know? Presumably, you would have heard from her.

[3094] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I heard directly from Ms Khan.

[3095] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Can you give us a perspective when it took place, what was asked of her, what she was asked to produce, what comments were made to her at these sessions?

[3096] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think, from the outset, I should mention that the disciplinary committee meetings were supposed to have been confidential but I fully accept that it's important to respect Parliament's authority on this. And so, I hope that my fellow Party members will understand why I'm revealing some details which I'm aware of.

[3097] My understanding is that Ms Khan had had two meetings with the Disciplinary Panel. The first was before the panel had commenced meeting members to seek their views. And in that meeting, Ms Khan had prepared for the meeting, assuming that they would have

asked her about the details of her involvement in the support group, details of essentially what she had shared in her personal explanation to the House on 1 November. I'm not sure if they did ask her about that. But from what Ms Khan had relayed to Ms Loh and I, they had, instead, focused on other aspects of her handling her job as Member of Parliament. So, that was the first meeting.

[3098] My view, or rather, according to my knowledge, I don't think there was supposed to have been a second meeting, but Ms Khan had appealed to the Panel, in particular to Mr Singh, to meet them a second time. And she had done so because she had wished to share with them, first of all, her achievements as an MP over the past one-plus years; and secondly, her plans for Compassvale, should she have continued as an MP.

[3099] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Thank you. Do you have a rough date of the first meeting? If you don't recall —

[3100] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't remember the date of the first meeting.

[3101] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The second meeting, I think, Ms Khan told us, took place on 29 November.

[3102] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** On 29 November, a day before she resigned, yes.

[3103] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That was Monday this week.

[3104] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Monday? I do apologise. Was it a Monday? I've lost track of time because so many things have been happening at a very quick pace.

[3105] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[3106] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** But it was in the morning of that day.

[3107] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 29 November. Okay. Thank you for that. Let me ask you a few questions.

[3108] First of all, the expectation that she would be asked about the support group that Ms Khan had, would have arisen from the request by the DP to meet with her, right?

[3109] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3110] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan shared with us yesterday that she was asked to produce evidence of that support group. There was an email that was sent to her. Did she tell you?

[3111] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** She did tell us that there was an email. I believe it was from our Party Chair, Ms Lim.

[3112] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[3113] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** But I can't remember the details of that email but I do remember that after having received that email, she was of the view that she was supposed to furnish details on what she had told Parliament.

[3114] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. But instead, when she went to this meeting with the DP, there was hardly, if at all, any questions on the support group?

[3115] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Based on what Ms Khan had relayed to us, yes.

[3116] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. And instead, there was a general discussion on her achievements and her competence to handle her job on a day-to-day basis, correct?

[3117] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Based on what Ms Khan had relayed to us, yes.

[3118] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. And the discussions on the events in question which gave rise to the DP, that is, the false statements in Parliament and the conduct surrounding thereto, in your discussions with Ms Khan, did she tell you whether they were gone into at all or in any fashion?

[3119] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't remember if she had. But what I do remember is that she was very surprised that either most of the time or all of the time – I can't remember – they had focused on her conduct as an MP more generally, more broadly —

[3120] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And not on the —

[3121] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** And not on the —

[3122] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — events surrounding the false statements?

[3123] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3124] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which, I would suggest to you is odd, given that the entire terms of reference of the Disciplinary Panel, and I read from the Workers' Party's media statement, was that: "The CEC has approved the formation of a DP to look into the admissions made by MP Raeesah Khan on 1 November arising from an earlier speech made by the MP in Parliament on 3 August 2021." So, to go into general conduct of achievements, activities and accomplishments as an MP in general terms and not covering these specific points about the falsehood, would that not strike you as being odd?

[3125] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** To be fair to the Disciplinary Panel, I think, in assessing her conduct after her personal explanation on 1 November, and in the context of that, I think it's reasonable to expect a Disciplinary Panel to also look at other areas. But I was surprised that it seemed like the relative degree of importance given to the context of the lie and the context of her broader conduct was lopsided.

[3126] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, what you're saying is that it's not unreasonable to expect a general inquiry into what else you've done because that goes towards mitigation, perhaps, that goes towards what's the appropriate sanction. But it is odd that the thrust of the discussion was on that, rather than the primary issues for which the DP was set up, right?

[3127] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I did feel that, yes.

[3128] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And one reason, possibly, is because the very same three people involved in the DP already had fair, detailed, intimate knowledge of what had gone on.

[3129] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** As I had mentioned, when we found out that a Disciplinary Panel was going to be formed, I did share earlier that I was surprised at that point in time. One of the reasons why I was surprised was because, technically, they know the details, so you would assume that —

[3130] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, what was there to inquire about?

[3131] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** You would assume that if a Disciplinary Panel were to be called, that they would inquire about further details.

[3132] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which they did not in this case?

[3133] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Which, to my understanding, based on what Ms Khan had said, they either did not or perhaps, they did but to a very small extent.

[3134] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And because the thrust of this first meeting was on her general accomplishments and her work as an MP on the ground in Compassvale, it prompted her to have to come back a second time to make a request to see them, to explain her accomplishments because she had not been given notice that that would be the issue in the first meeting, right?

[3135] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I would agree with that, yes.

[3136] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she then went to this meeting and she told us that she prepared, did some homework, made a presentation on what she had done and what she hopes to achieve and made a presentation on 29 November in the morning.

[3137] Up to that point in time – and the reason I’m asking you this is because I’m trying to evaluate the events that quickly unfolded thereafter – did Ms Khan discuss with you and tell you that she intended to resign her position as an MP?

[3138] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Minister Tong, I think that the truth is that Ms Khan did not want to resign as an MP before 30 November because she had told us that she wanted to continue serving her residents. If I may quote her, she said, “I have a duty to my residents.”

[3139] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. You know her directly and have spoken with her but I, looking at it from the outside in, looking at what she has done and her conduct on 29 November in wanting to come and persuade the DP – despite being somewhat blind-sided by the first meeting that it was a discussion on her general achievements – came back and made a presentation and, basically, was a stout defence of her position and looking forward and telling them what she intends to achieve as an MP. That’s far from the conduct of someone who has thrown in the towel and wants to resign, right?

[3140] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3141] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, between 29 November and 30 November, what changed?

[3142] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Between 29 November and 30 November, based on my understanding due to a conversation that I had had with Ms Khan after her second interview at the Disciplinary Panel, she informed me that after she had told the Panel about her plans for Compassvale, the Panel – I’m not sure if it’s collectively or if it was one or two of them – had suggested to her that she may want to consider resigning because she had lost the confidence of her colleagues.

[3143] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did that suggestion affect Ms Khan?

[3144] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3145] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give us a bit more detail as to how it affected her?

[3146] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I should add, yes, in my view, in my opinion.

[3147] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course.

[3148] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** It affected her because, in that phone call that she had had with me, it almost seemed as if she was very – I mean, she went into the meeting, in fact, before the meeting, she was telling me that she was nervous to present this to the Disciplinary Panel. And I was telling her, “What do you have to be nervous about? If you really want to continue being an MP, then, go for it.”

[3149] And so, she had gone in, I think, with the hope that they would hear her out. And so, when I had that conversation with her after, she sounded rather disappointed that in spite of the fact that she had tried to address the concerns about her general conduct as an MP and her general competence in different areas as an MP, that that was what she had heard from the Panel.

[3150] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. And shortly after that, she decided to resign?

[3151] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** She decided to resign, in my view—Okay, so, essentially, after she had come out of that second meeting, she started asking herself what are the odds that the Party, whether it’s the CEC, the broader membership, the leadership, what are the odds that they wanted her to continue on. And I think she felt that the odds were quite low and, in my view, that’s why, I think, she decided to resign the next day.

[3152] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The odds of her being able to receive continued support from the Party, is that what you mean —

[3153] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3154] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — was quite low?

[3155] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Meaning to say, if she were to continue as an MP—well, first of all, whether she would be able to survive the CEC vote on 30 November. And by “survive”, I mean not be expelled. And, secondly, even if she were to survive that vote, whether

she would be able to have a good working relationship with her parliamentary colleagues from the Party, as well as whether the membership of the Party would accept her staying on.

[3156] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Okay.

[3157] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: So, this, to my knowledge, based on my conversation with her on 29 November, was what was going on in her mind.

[3158] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Yes. To that, I would add, a key consideration must surely be that if the Party, represented by the most senior of the Party members, are coming to you and asking you to consider resigning, I think that's a very strong signal, isn't it?

[3159] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: I'd say two things. Firstly, to be fair to the senior leaders of the Party, they didn't explicitly instruct her to resign. But, secondly, given their seniority, I think that—you see, the thing is I don't, for a second, believe that the CEC of the Workers' Party are a monolith. I think they all have their own minds and they can make decisions by themselves. But I think, naturally, if you've lost the support, or seemingly lost the support of your Party leadership, then that would spell the end of the road.

[3160] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Yes. To your point that they didn't explicitly ask her to resign, I think you and I know that you don't quite need to spell it out in as many words. Here you have the senior Party leadership, in whatever form of language, I think the message was quite clear, right?

[3161] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: I think that Ms Khan felt like the message was clear.

[3162] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: There was a CEC meeting on 30 November, and I think, at least based on what I know from public sources, it was supposed to have been sometime in the evening of 30 November. By that time, were you aware – you may not be aware but if you can, please help us – were you aware if the Disciplinary Panel had already completed its work, prepared the report and presented it to the CEC?

[3163] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: No, I was not aware that they had already. So, my understanding was that when I heard that there would be a CEC meeting that evening, my understanding is that the Disciplinary Panel would present their report to the CEC and then they would deliberate on the matter. But I should also add that as members of the WP, whether they are ordinary members or cadre members, proceedings of the CEC are not something that we are privy to on a usual basis.

[3164] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: I understand.

[3165] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: So, I don't wish to mislead the Committee by saying that this is definitely true.

[3166] Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: No, which is why I caveated my question by saying, to your knowledge, as far as you know, there was no such report that was prepared and, to your knowledge, such report was not done and not presented to the CEC.

[3167] Mr Yudhishthra Nathan: No.

[3168] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the last, at least very close to 30 November, was still Ms Khan who had come before the CEC to give representations which, presumably, the DP would take into account as well?

[3169] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Can you repeat that, sorry?

[3170] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The DP is set up to investigate, fact-find, make recommendations and report to the CEC. The DP is under an obligation, obviously, to listen to all the submissions that come before it. Whether it agrees or disagrees, it has to consider and make a view. And based on that, make a report and send to the CEC.

[3171] What I'm saying is that the last, at least what we know as the last or very late submission, was made by Ms Khan on 29 November itself, just the day before. And that must also have been something that DP should consider in making its report, right?

[3172] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3173] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. Mr Nathan, I've prepared a chronology of events which roughly accords with what I've taken you through and I want to just show it to you, so that you can confirm parts of it. Could I have copies given to Mr Nathan, please? [*A document was referred to.*]

[3174] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Thank you.

[3175] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Nathan, let me just orientate you to this document. It's a chronology starting from 3 August right through to 2 December, which is yesterday. It covers the key discussions that we've had over the course of this morning or afternoon. As far as I can tell, you have agreed to this in the form that I have set out here, save some editions and clarifications that I'll take you through now. And if there's anything else you don't agree with, let me know, and I will go through it.

[3176] So, let's start from the top: 3 August, there was a speech in Parliament, I think that's a fact. You would agree – tell me if you don't agree, okay? You also mentioned that sometime in between 3 and 7 August, you had spoken with Ms Khan. Do you recall?

[3177] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Between 3 and 7 August, yes, that's right.

[3178] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 7 August, Ms Khan spoke to Mr Pritam Singh and told him that she has spoken an untruth in Parliament?

[3179] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No, on 7 August, Ms Khan had informed Ms Loh and I that she had lied and that the only other people who knew were her husband and Mr Singh.

[3180] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, she would have spoken to Mr Singh, which is what I asked you about earlier.

[3181] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Oh, I do apologise. I thought I heard you say that she had spoken to Mr Singh on 7 August.

[3182] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She had spoken to Mr Singh by 7 August.

[3183] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes, that's right.

[3184] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, if you want, we can say "by 7 August". On 8 August – let me take you through these points – there was a meeting that took place. I'm asking you not so much to speak to someone's intention, which I know you can't do. I'm asking you, now that we've gone through the facts and circumstances, whether or not these points here represent factual matters which happened in the timeline. Because this would assist us in forming a view on the timeline, okay?

[3185] And this information, sometimes like, for example, the 12 October Sitting, you might learn about something that happened prior to it later, but you do know on 12 October that a meeting took place on 3 October, and that would be part of the flow as well. That is what I mean, okay?

[3186] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I see. Alright.

[3187] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, there was a meeting that took place at Mr Singh's house, where these people were present – Mr Singh, Ms Lim and Mr Manap. I have put a page reference here. Ms Khan told them that statements she made in Parliament was false. If you like, you can turn to the page and have a look at it, this is her evidence. When asked about the reaction, Ms Khan said "incredible disappointment", "lots of anger" and so on. I read this to you earlier.

[3188] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3189] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you said this also comported with what you saw of the message, what you thought of the message you received. At (d), Ms Khan agreed that the upshot of the meeting was that the members of the Workers' Party had decided that there would be no need to clarify the position, and so on. Again, it's at page 161 of her evidence.

[3190] At (e), after the meeting, "RK", which is Ms Khan, sent a text inter alia to yourself as well, and I think we saw the text earlier. And this was sent contemporaneously at or around the same time when the meeting was concluded, which was 12.41 pm on 8 August. Do you need to see the text again?

[3191] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Just to check the time.

[3192] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, second page, at the bottom, 8 August, 12.41 pm.

[3193] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes, that's right.

[3194] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Then we go to 10 August. You remember you described a separate occasion that both Ms Loh and yourself went to see Mr Singh on a separate matter.

[3195] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3196] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the takeaway from this, both from Ms Loh and yourself, was that Mr Singh knew about the falsehood in Parliament.

[3197] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3198] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At 10 August, (b), Ms Loh was assuaged that senior leadership was aware, and it was her expectation that the problem will be sorted out at that level. I think you also shared that view.

[3199] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3200] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The next key occasion, because I think we agreed that there was nothing until 3 October, so, the next key occasion is on 3 October. Mr Singh visits Ms Khan at her home.

[3201] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3202] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At (e), Mr Singh was expecting that Ms Khan would be pressed about her lie since it was the first occasion since August that she would be back in Parliament, correct?

[3203] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Correct.

[3204] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then I will just go through which I read to you earlier, where she says, "If I were to retain the narrative, or if I were to continue the narrative, there would be no judgement."

[3205] On 4 October, several things: one, Ms Khan addresses Minister Shanmugam's questions in Parliament; two, there were several clear and direct false statements that were made in response to Minister Shanmugam; three, at the time the statements were made, Mr Singh, Mr Manap and Ms Lim would have been aware that they were false as she was making those statements in Parliament, correct?

[3206] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3207] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I think we went one step further and said that, actually, only they from the Members of Parliament would be aware?

[3208] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3209] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 4 October, at (d), this one you said you were not aware. There was a meeting that took place at the LO office, but, to be fair to you, you said you were not aware. So, this reference point is coming from Ms Khan directly. So, save for this, I will not ascribe any direct knowledge, on your part, to this. Because you said you were not aware. So, you can ignore (d).

[3210] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Okay, thank you. Alright.

[3211] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, as a consequence, you can also ignore the last paragraph. On 12 October, this one you would be aware, Ms Khan first calls yourself and Ms Loh, and says that she will admit and clarify the false statements in Parliament. You then had a discussion?

- [3212] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** She called us separately.
- [3213] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, separately.
- [3214] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** And I'm not sure if she called Ms Loh, but she did call me.
- [3215] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. She did call Ms Loh, and I have that from her, but —
- [3216] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** What I meant was that I knew that she had communicated to Ms Loh, but by way of text or call, I'm not sure.
- [3217] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, alright. I understand that. So, subject to that caveat, you would agree with the 12 October entries?
- [3218] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** For (a), yes.
- [3219] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** For (b), there's a message that she sent, you would see that in the bundle as well. And then for (c), you would agree because you then met with Mr Singh at his home that evening.
- [3220] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [3221] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 22 October – again, I took this from one of the messages from Ms Loh – I think you were present, and you said this was one occasion where you exchanged views on the drafting?
- [3222] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [3223] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** 1 November, Ms Khan makes a speech in Parliament; WP issues a statement. I think that's a matter of record. Likewise, 2 November, the DP was set up. On 4 November, I think you said you weren't sure whether it was on Deepavali. So, I will also take that caveat. But I think your recollection was that there was such a meeting; you're just not sure which date?
- [3224] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [3225] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 25 November, we heard your evidence on this. There was a meeting that you and Ms Loh requested to see the DP and you did so at the Workers' Party HQ on 25 November, at 8.30 am.
- [3226] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Pm.
- [3227] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Pm?
- [3228] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Pm.

[3229] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. Subject to that, “they”, meaning yourself and Ms Loh, told Workers’ Party DP that RK should not resign, and I quoted Ms Loh’s evidence which —

[3230] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** May I say something about point (b)? So, it says here, “they tell the WP DP that RK should not resign.” I think it’s more accurate to say that we told them that, in our view, she should not be expelled from the Party. Yes, I don’t think we—but, essentially, it would have come down to the same outcome.

[3231] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, I mean —

[3232] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** So, in that sense, I don’t disagree with the meat of point (b).

[3233] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The substance of (b) would be what you would agree with, correct?

[3234] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3235] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That’s what you’re trying to say. Okay, thank you. On (c), I think I asked you to read this and then you said you agree, right?

[3236] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3237] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. For 29 November, we just covered this. “Earlier this week, RK met with the Workers’ Party DP at HQ to discuss her performance as an MP”. If you recall, we talked about this. She came to present and then she was asked to consider resigning?

[3238] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Ten-thirty sounds right. Yes.

[3239] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. At 29 (b), she’s asked to consider resigning, correct?

[3240] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3241] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We just talked about this. Then, 30 November, she resigns; 2 December, there’s a press conference. Okay?

[3242] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3243] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, can I take it, Mr Nathan, that you agree with this document, save that on 4 October, under item (d), you have no personal knowledge of such a meeting?

[3244] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3245] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that on 12 October, item (a), the call, you are not sure what form Ms Khan communicated to Ms Loh, whether it was a call or a message, but you do know that they communicated, correct?

- [3246] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [3247] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And on item (b) on 25 November, in substance, you would agree?
- [3248] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** On 25 November, yes.
- [3249] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. I beg your pardon. My colleague reminds that it should be 25 November, 8.30 pm instead of am.
- [3250] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [3251] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** Chairman, sorry to interrupt the Minister.
- [3252] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me finish.
- [3253] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** I just want to clarify a point with you on 22 October. I can wait for you to finish.
- [3254] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, based on this, this would be an accurate timeline in your view, with the discussions that we've just had, correct?
- [3255] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Also, adding the caveat that I can't remember the exact date. It says here that we met at the WP HQ on 22 October. I can't remember the exact date. But, as discussed earlier, it was at around that time.
- [3256] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. It's either on or shortly after 22 October. Would that be fair?
- [3257] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.
- [3258] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And I'll just tell you why I say this. If you just pick up this bundle with the WhatsApp messages and go to around the fourth page, you'll see at the bottom of that page, 22 October, there's a message between Pritam Singh and Ms Loh. And on 22 October, there was a message that says, "Change of time, meeting at 11.00 am." Maybe that might have been the next day or a day after. So, 23, 24 October, perhaps. Would that be fair?
- [3259] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes, because this screenshot, the message was at 7.30 pm?
- [3260] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, that's a fair point.
- [3261] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** So, I think, yes. Yes, I agree with that.
- [3262] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, shall I say 23 or 24 October? Or perhaps we say this – shortly after 22 October. Would that be more accurate?
- [3263] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think the best way is to put it "shortly after 7.30 pm on 22 October", yes, but this is something that I can help to clarify down the road if necessary.

[3264] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, that would be useful, thank you. Besides what we've just discussed, is there anything else you disagree with on this chronology?

[3265] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[3266] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, alright. Perhaps Mr Tan can clarify?

[3267] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** Minister, actually, I just want to clarify with you on your description of 22 October, and you had put in (a) "WP had a meeting". I think from the evidence yesterday, there was some description of which were the individuals at the meeting, right? So, isn't it more appropriate to put the names of the individuals at the meeting rather than to say that "WP had a meeting in WP HQ"? It's the accuracy and the description. I can put it to Mr Yudhishthra as well for better description.

[3268] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, let's put it this way so that we do not get into disagreement.

[3269] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** For better description.

[3270] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the "WP" here refers to Mr Singh, Ms Lim, Ms Khan, yourself and Ms Loh, correct?

[3271] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3272] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Thank you.

[3273] **Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong:** Thank you, Minister.

[3274] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, with those clarifications, would you agree with this chronology?

[3275] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3276] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you very much. Mr Chairman, I've got no further questions. Thank you, Mr Nathan.

[3277] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Thank you, Minister.

[3278] **The Chairman:** Minister Grace Fu, do you have any questions?

[3279] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you, Mr Nathan. Yesterday, when Ms Khan gave her evidence, she mentioned that her decision to go to Parliament to give a statement to give a full account of what happened on 1 November was made on 12 October.

[3280] Just to recall, somewhere on 4 October, that was when she was asked to give details in Parliament by Minister Shanmugam. At the end of that Sitting, there was a meeting with Ms Sylvia Lim, Mr Pritam Singh at LO's office, she hadn't made up her mind yet.

[3281] And on 7 October, she had received an email from the Police to give details, she hadn't made up her mind yet about coming clean, going to Parliament to give her account. And

it's on 12 October that she had made that decision with Party leaders, Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Pritam Singh. Are you able to confirm that? Is that consistent with what she has told you?

[3282] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Everything in what you have just described I find consistent, except that I can't confirm the part about 7 October where you mentioned she received an email from the Police.

[3283] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Did she share with you about receiving this email and having to respond to the Police?

[3284] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** She did share with us that she received an email from the Police. But I think, at that point in time, Ms Khan was, essentially, also waiting on advice from the higher-ups, in other words, the senior Party leadership, as to how she should respond.

[3285] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Did she give you any inclination that she will go to Parliament on 1 November to make that statement that she did?

[3286] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** She did say that – I don't want to misquote Ms Khan or what she told me the leaders might have said. But my impression was that she or they or all of them had decided that going to Parliament would have been their preferred option as opposed to —

[3287] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Is that before or after the 12 October meeting that they had?

[3288] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't remember. I believe it was —

[3289] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, 12 October was the time when you had a meeting with Ms Loh, together with —

[3290] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I do apologise. It was before 12 October, because on 12 October, Ms Khan had said that the Party leaders and she herself had wanted to come clean.

[3291] May I retract what I just said about whether it was before 12 October, because, now, thinking about it, I honestly can't remember whether it was before or after 12 October.

[3292] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** I think we have just gone through the sequence of events. I think it's here that she would admit, that is at (a). So, nothing in between 4 October and 12 October, right? So, basically, I was trying to ask whether she had informed you about the Police and whether she has indicated to you whether that has made her make a decision, changed her mind about coming to make a statement in Parliament?

[3293] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't remember if the Police had contacted her before or after 12 October. But I knew that at or possibly just after 12 October, they had agreed that the preferable thing to do, in their view, was to come to Parliament, instead of to attend the Police interview or meeting.

[3294] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Did Ms Khan share with you about when she confided this to her family, besides her husband?

[3295] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** She did. She said that she confided after 12 October. So, in between 12 October and 1 November, closer to 1 November, because she had a great deal of hesitation in breaking the news to her parents.

[3296] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, am I right to describe the event as “she has made the decision on 12 October, thereafter, she informed her family after 12 October”?

[3297] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3298] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** I’m just trying to understand the events so as to get a better position or understanding of the statement made by Mr Pritam Singh in the press that, actually, the few months’ lapse from August was actually to give her time to inform her family.

[3299] Is that the reason for her to delay or, as we have heard, actually, the decision was made on 12 October, before there was a need to inform? Prior to that, the position was to keep the narrative and not to disclose. The critical date was 12 October.

[3300] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I do think there is some truth to what Mr Singh said, because, essentially, on 12 October, when we met at his house, he did express this concern that her family was not aware of what had happened.

[3301] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Did Mr Pritam Singh express this concern in August when you met?

[3302] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I don’t remember.

[3303] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, was it a factor as to why the decision was taken only on 12 October? Or I would put it to you that the decision was made on 12 October, before they decided that it’s time to tell the family?

[3304] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think it could have been one of the factors, but I am unable to speak on Mr Singh’s behalf.

[3305] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** In your discussion with Mr Singh, you had several rounds of discussion. Has that need to inform the family been a factor?

[3306] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** It was a factor, but —

[3307] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** In what way?

[3308] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Just in having concern that she would have to, essentially, deal with this personal matter of telling her family at home before coming clean to Parliament and to the nation.

[3309] In a sense, this was something that was a factor or a concern that I think all of us had throughout the process. So, as I mentioned earlier, when we had first heard about it, obviously, we knew that, because only her husband had known about it at that point in time by 7 August. Naturally, certainly for myself, and I suspect for Ms Loh as well, there was a concern that she will have to, at some point, tell her parents this.

[3310] So, I do think that it was a factor. But I'm unable to say as to whether it was the main factor, or indeed, I would hazard a guess that it wasn't the main factor that led to the long period of that wait between them knowing that she had lied and the apology on 1 November.

[3311] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** If it had been a main factor, then I think your series of meetings would have been to discuss when Ms Khan should tell the family and what is the earliest time that she should go to Parliament. That didn't happen in August, that didn't happen in September. That only happened in the second half of October, after 12 October, to be exact.

[3312] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** So, I agree with the way you described it. But I would also say that that discussion, hypothetically, may not have involved Ms Loh and I. It could have – and I say could have hypothetically – been discussed by the Party leaders and Ms Khan, by themselves.

[3313] So, I, generally, agree with how you described it. But because you mentioned “your meetings”, that would imply my meetings with Ms Khan. So, I think that's not necessarily true, because whether Ms Khan were to inform her family about it or not, it's almost like above Ms Loh's and my pay grade, to use the term, not that we are paid to help out in the Workers' Party.

[3314] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** No, I totally understand the concerns about Ms Khan's well-being as well as her need to inform the family. But am I right to say that that did not come into the picture of your general discussions until after 12 October? Of course, there's a general concern about her well-being and how her family will respond to it, but that wasn't the main decision on the timing on which the November statement was made?

[3315] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I would say that it didn't, generally, occur as a main concern.

[3316] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you. I don't have the transcript with me, but I think Ms Khan mentioned something about there would be no judgement from Mr Pritam Singh sometime about 3 October. Was it just from Ms Khan herself or did you also hear this from Mr Pritam Singh himself? Because from what we were told yesterday by Ms Loh that that was a confirmation that Mr Pritam Singh has also given; that that was the understanding she has gotten from Mr Pritam Singh?

[3317] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** So, this was something that we heard both from Ms Khan as well as from Mr Singh.

[3318] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Can you tell us how did you hear it and what's the occasion that you have heard it?

[3319] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Ms Loh and I heard it on 12 October when we met with Mr Singh at his place of residence and he had expressed to us that, regardless of whether she had maintained the argument of maintaining the survivor's or the victim's confidentiality or whether she decided to tell the truth, that he would not judge her.

[3320] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** How did you interpret that?

[3321] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I thought two things. First of all, personally, it did sound like he was empathising with her. I think that's natural for anyone to do. But at the same time, I also thought that it was a bit indecisive. Not "a bit" indecisive; it was rather indecisive.

[3322] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** What's the context that led to that statement? Was it something that you asked? Was that something that's offered by Mr Singh? Could you remember?

[3323] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I don't remember what exactly we had been discussing before that, so, I feel that I can't give you a factual answer to that question.

[3324] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** When Mr Singh said that, was it to give you assurance of a position or to give you an indication of the Party leaders' position? What context was it?

[3325] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think it was an indication of his personal position on the matter. But, I think that, ordinarily, we took it to mean that that was also the senior leadership's position on the matter. Perhaps that was an assumption on our part, but, yes.

[3326] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you.

[3327] **The Chairman:** If I could build on what Minister Grace Fu just asked you. So, essentially, your impression, from what Mr Singh conveyed to you on 12 October would suggest that – as opposed to what was said in the press statement that was released and as read by Minister Edwin Tong earlier, that an order was given for her to come clean. That wasn't an impression that you got from that conversation with him. Was there any impression that that would have been a direction given to her to come clean?

[3328] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** No.

[3329] **The Chairman:** So, perhaps if you could explain to us: what would your impression be? That, actually, to continue on the present trajectory of maintaining the narrative and that they wouldn't judge her on that if she had continued to do so?

[3330] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Just taking what Mr Singh had told Ms Loh and I, in terms of its ordinary meaning, if you tell me that "I'm not going to judge you if you do A or B", then it simply means that "I'm neither instructing you to do A or B, but, at the same time, you're free to do what you —"

[3331] **The Chairman:** Certainly, what it would mean is that there wasn't a direction given to her to take the action of confessing and coming clean?

[3332] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3333] **The Chairman:** As a sort of the statement made, according to the CNA article that he said, and that he couldn't understand why she didn't respond and she had to account for that?

[3334] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3335] **The Chairman:** Further questions from other Members? Zaqy? Dennis, anything? Don?

[3336] **Mr Don Wee:** I do. Good afternoon, Mr Nathan. Just now you mentioned that when Ms Khan received the invitation from the Police to meet up, you mentioned that she would respond and that is based on how the Party leadership would have guided her. So, based on your understanding of Ms Khan, do you think she would have accepted the meeting invite, should the Party leadership have guided her to do so?

[3337] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think that she may have been—I can't —

[3338] **Mr Don Wee:** Based on your understanding of her.

[3339] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think it would be a bit unfair for me to make a judgement as to what she would have done in that case.

[3340] **Mr Don Wee:** Okay.

[3341] **The Chairman:** Any other further points, anyone?

[3342] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Just a quick one on the question Don asked. Was there any indication from her as to why making a statement in Parliament was better, rather than making a Police statement or responding to the Police? Because they wrote to her three times and she didn't respond all three times. I'm quite sure she was advised, as you said. But did she say why?

[3343] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I believe that there was this idea that, at that point in time—actually, now thinking about it, there's no specific reason that I can recall as to why that occurred. So, it's a bit of a question in my mind as well, yes.

[3344] **The Chairman:** So, the issue of the Police writing to her and her not responding, this was not an issue that she discussed with you?

[3345] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** She did discuss it with us.

[3346] **The Chairman:** What transpired?

[3347] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I believe she consulted a lawyer to get some legal advice but I'm not sure as to what. And I'm not entirely certain of the conversations that she would have had with the Party leadership on this matter. But now, reflecting, I do remember thinking that I had no reason to disbelieve that her going or not going to speak to the Police was not a collective decision made by the Party leadership and herself.

[3348] **The Chairman:** So, meaning that your impression would be that there was probably some discussion with the Party leadership and that was the collective decision that she wouldn't respond to the Police?

[3349] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Yes.

[3350] **The Chairman:** In your discussions with her on this issue with regard to the Police, what else was covered?

[3351] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I do believe that there was some discussion on parliamentary privilege, because when you come to Parliament, you can have a certain degree of freedom without, of course, abusing it, as opposed to speaking to the Police, where you wouldn't have that. But the thing is I cannot remember where this point was made or why it was made. I just remember that that was something that floated in the conversation.

[3352] **The Chairman:** What else was covered?

[3353] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I think that was about it, based on my understanding.

[3354] **The Chairman:** Okay.

[3355] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Can I just follow up on this discussion? Is that conversation between you and Ms Khan done through phone call or is it messages?

[3356] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I can't recall now.

[3357] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Could we ask that maybe you can check your chat —

[3358] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** I will check.

[3359] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** — logs if there's any log of those conversations, that would be very helpful for us.

[3360] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright.

[3361] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you.

[3362] **The Chairman:** So, there are no other further questions for now. We would like to thank you for coming before the Committee. As highlighted, there are a number of references that Minister Edwin Tong and others might have raised with regard to materials that might be useful, as you have seen in the examples, the text messages between yourselves in your group chats. So, some of the issues that have been raised here, it will be useful, whether through WhatsApp, Telegram, whatever means or comms you may have with the others, emails and so on and so forth, it would be useful to furnish them to us, so that we can also cross-reference and check on it.

[3363] There may also be other conversations or issues pertaining to this case that may not have been raised here, but if you feel it's useful, do let us know. If I may to ask you, is there any other witnesses you think would be useful to come before the Committee of Privileges for us to interview, to better understand the circumstances with regard to this case?

[3364] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** To be honest, no. And I say that because the vast majority are Party members and I would hazard a guess the majority of our Members of Parliament and CEC members may not have had the full picture of what had happened since August.

[3365] **The Chairman:** So, would it be correct to say that even as shared with us by Ms Raeesah Khan, as was conveyed to her by the Disciplinary Panel, that she doesn't have the confidence of her colleagues in Sengkang GRC, it would be fair to say that the members in Sengkang GRC, along with the rest of the other members, would actually not have a clear idea of all these things that have transpired, that she had sought advice, she had sought counsel, and, as of now, probably wouldn't have that full picture? Would that be a fair assumption?

[3366] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Unfortunately, I do think that that's a fair assumption. The three remaining MPs in Sengkang GRC never asked for any of this to happen and they've just been keeping at their jobs, trying to do what's best for the residents.

[3367] And, of course, I'm not privy to conversations that MPs have amongst themselves. So, I cannot say with certainty what they do and do not know. But I think it's important for me to note that the members of my Party and, as you mentioned, the Sengkang GRC Members of Parliament may not have had the full picture. But I don't want to say that with 100% certainty, because I could be wrong.

[3368] **The Chairman:** Yes, I fully understand. So, do furnish us with whatever details, emails, Telegram messages and so on, as much as possible. As we've explained, really, our job is to fact-find. Obviously, as you realise, this is a grave matter. It's very different from being misinformed erroneously, highlighting facts that might be inaccurate, but it was a deliberate lie. And I think what we're trying to determine are the circumstances behind which and ascertaining what sanctions we may take and, therefore, any factors that might be mitigating would always be useful. That's why we went into the details that we have with regard to how things evolved, the various conversations taking place, impressions. Because that would help us form a view as to the degree of responsibility the respective individuals might bear.

[3369] So, a transcript of the proceedings will be shared with you for verification. So, do go through it. And if you have any minor amendments and so on, please make the changes and send the transcript back to us. Please do note that the transcript, any evidence given to the Committee, are not to be disclosed to anyone, not to be published and the conversations we've had here are to be kept strictly confidential until the Committee has presented its reports to Parliament. So, there are various reports that we may need to make to Parliament and that would include the relevant summaries, transcripts, footages that may be submitted, and, thereby, be in the public domain as well.

[3370] So, for now, you may withdraw, but do remain in Parliament House. I don't think there will be a need to call you back today, but I think there will be some follow-up administration that might be required, if needed. So, our staff will accompany you out to the waiting room.

[3371] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright.

[3372] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Chairman, I just want to make one clarification, which is that, earlier on, we had asked Mr Nathan for a variety of documents and chats, which you said you would check. So, rather than go back and forth, I just thought I would clarify with you what we are after. You saw some of the examples we showed you earlier, but what we had told previous witnesses was that it's not sufficient to just give us that particular message. We need to see the trail. Of course, not irrelevant discussions with friends and non-interested parties. But the trail needs to be established, so that we are able to understand the context in which some messages were said. So, bear this in mind.

[3373] Secondly, bear in mind that I've gone through with you the key dates beginning from August through to November. Those are the dates that you should have in mind and anything that relates to or arises from the false statement or the discussions that you had with the parties on any of those key dates should also become documents that you would produce. Okay? Thank you very much.

[3374] **The Chairman:** And just to add, I know that, in terms of editing, it might be a bit complex. But if there are portions, because obviously interspersed in every conversation, there may be a lot of stuff that, perhaps, are not really relevant, what you could do is to print them out and then mark it out. So, maybe certain names you feel are not necessary to be there, or certain comments that might be irrelevant, but the rest of the conversations would help us have that full sense of that flow; that would be useful.

[3375] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Alright.

[3376] **The Chairman:** Serjeant-at-arms, if you can accompany Mr Nathan out. Thank you once again for being here and sharing with us your perspectives.

[3377] **Mr Yudhishthra Nathan:** Thank you, Mr Chairman.

(The witness withdrew.)

(The hearing adjourned at 2.50 pm.)

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

THURSDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2021

11.00 am

PRESENT:

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker (*Chairman*)

Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien
Mr Desmond Lee
Ms Rahayu Mahzam
Mr Dennis Tan Lip Fong

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai
Mr Don Wee
Mr Zaqy Mohamad

[Mr Speaker in the Chair]

[3378] **The Chairman:** I call the meeting to order. Sergeant-at-arms, please invite the witness Mr Faisal Manap to the witness table.

Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap was examined on affirmation.

[3379] **The Chairman:** Good morning. Mr Faisal Manap, please take a seat, and for the record, please state your name, your occupation and the positions you hold.

[3380] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** My name is Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap.

[3381] **The Chairman:** You can take off your mask first.

[3382] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap, NRIC [redacted], a full-time Member of Parliament.

[3383] **The Chairman:** Thank you. The evidence that you'll be giving today before the Committee will be taken on oath. If you so desire, you can also take an affirmation. Clerk, please administer the oath or affirmation.

(The witness made an affirmation.)

[3384] **The Chairman:** Thank you. Please be seated. The Committee of Privileges is looking into the complaint made by the Leader of the House, Ms Indranee Rajah, against former Member of Sengkang GRC, Ms Raeesah Khan, for breach of privilege. Thank you very much for attending today's hearing to give evidence before the Committee and to answer the questions which Members of the Committee would like to put to you. You have taken a solemn obligation to answer our questions truthfully. If you refuse to answer questions directly or

attempt to mislead the Committee, such behaviour will be an offence and in contempt of this Committee. I will now call on Minister Desmond Lee to proceed with his questions.

[3385] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Very good morning, Mr Faisal.

[3386] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Good morning, Minister.

[3387] **Mr Desmond Lee:** As the Chairman had described, today's hearing is to inquire into the statements made by the former Sengkang Member of Parliament (MP), Ms Raeesah Khan, in Parliament in August, in October and in November with respect to an anecdote she had given which she could not substantiate and which was false.

[3388] And there are a couple of things we need to do as part of the work of the Committee of Privileges. The first is to determine whether or not what she said was false, it cannot be substantiated, and in that regard, Ms Khan had admitted as such both in Parliament as well as before this Panel.

[3389] The second thing that we have to determine is the level of culpability. That means what is the level of responsibility of Ms Khan in respect of what she'd said. And to do that, we have to inquire into the facts and circumstances: what she said, why she said it, who did she interact with, what was the advice, what was said, So, we, therefore, have to do a fact-finding to determine the level of culpability. So, I'll be asking you a series of questions and I may ask you to then provide some documentary material, whether it's on WhatsApp, email, written and so on. So, just for the record, you are the Member of Parliament for Aljunied GRC since 2011?

[3390] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, Minister.

[3391] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And since 2016, Workers' Party Vice Chairman?

[3392] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, Minister.

[3393] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You can just say yes, no. It'll be easier for you. From September 2018 to March 2021, you were Chairman of the Aljunied-Hougang Town Council, yes?

[3394] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3395] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And since April 2021, Vice Chairman, yes?

[3396] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3397] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And, previously, you were a professional freelance counsellor before becoming a full-time Member of Parliament?

[3398] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3399] **Mr Desmond Lee:** During the Committee of Privileges' work, we received logs of messages and conversations between various people that's relevant to our inquiry. And I would like to just take you through a WhatsApp conversation that you had with Ms Raeesah Khan, and this is an extract from 29 September to 29 November 2021.

- [3400] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, 29 September to —
- [3401] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — September to 29 November 2021, the two-month period.
- [3402] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Two months.
- [3403] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the Assistant Clerk will put it in front of you.
- [3404] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Can I just write down the date?
- [3405] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You can write whatever you want but she will provide you with the extract.
- [3406] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.
- [3407] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, let's look at pages 12 and 13. If you look at the timeline 30 October 2021, do you see that?
- [3408] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 30 October.
- [3409] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 30 October, Ms Khan messages you in the evening: “Salam, Faisal, what do you think of the statement?”
- [3410] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you see that?
- [3411] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3412] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you replied the next day, not the 30 October but 31 October, and you said [*A message was referred to, with the following text.*]:
- Sorry for not replying much earlier. I think you are doing the right thing by coming out with this statement. It is courageous of you to publicly share your past bad experience. My full respect to you.
- [3413] Do you see that?
- [3414] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3415] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And by “statement”, she's referring to the draft personal explanation for Parliament on 1 November. Is that your understanding when you saw her message and replied? Because on 1 November, she told Parliament a personal statement about —
- [3416] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3417] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — her mistruths to Parliament —
- [3418] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3419] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — in August and in October, correct?

[3420] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, this statement is for the 1 November statement.

[3421] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That's right, which means that before 1 November, you had seen the draft personal explanation?

[3422] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3423] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Hence, you were able to say what you said, that it was courageous and all that?

[3424] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3425] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then, from that exchange from 30 and 31 October, all the way to 5 November – maybe just glance through it. We'll let you take a while to look through your messages with her.

[3426] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Up to 5 November —

[3427] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 5 November.

[3428] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Alright.

[3429] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Let me just turn to my records too. So, would I characterise the exchange all the way to 5 November as just giving her general advice, guidance, and she showed appreciation and listened to what you had to say. It was just an exchange?

[3430] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, and encouragement to her.

[3431] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Correct?

[3432] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes

[3433] **Mr Desmond Lee:** if you can turn to page 11, a WhatsApp exchange you had with Ms Khan on 5 October to 7 October. [*A message was referred to.*] Somewhere in the middle, where, on 5 October, she says: "Thank you." On 6 October, she says, "Hi, Faisal, are you free today to meet?" Do you see that?

[3434] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3435] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then you reply at 12.17 pm, and you have greetings to her, and you said: "Apologies. Today unable to."

[3436] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3437] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then she asks, and you say, "Tomorrow afternoon okay with you?" You see that?

[3438] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3439] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she says. “Yup, tomorrow afternoon is okay.”, and this would be — then 7 October, and you see 7 October at the bottom, she says, “I’m here.” And at 2.28 pm, “Walking over. Two minutes.”

[3440] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3441] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Which means that you had met her at 549 Bedok North on 7 October?

[3442] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3443] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And am I right that she sought your advice and views on what to do regarding the untruths she told in Parliament? Because on 4 October, Minister Shanmugam made a Ministerial Statement asking her to substantiate the anecdote she had made in Parliament, and so, she wanted to speak to you about this, am I right?

[3444] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[3445] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Then what did she talk to you about?

[3446] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, she wants to meet me. She has been wanting to meet me since – we have another earlier message on 4 August, in which she – I need to retrack back a bit further down.

[3447] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Go ahead.

[3448] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Hopefully, you all can bear with me.

[3449] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

[3450] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** So, after the incident where there's an “upsetness” from the Muslim community regarding her speech.

[3451] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 3 August?

[3452] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On polygamy as well as the FGC issue. So, I've been trying to give her some encouragement. And at one time, actually, I offered and asked her whether I can meet up with her parents because my concern is that her parents will be affected. So, we did make an appointment. Supposedly, we're supposed to meet on 8 August. And then on 7 —

[3453] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 8 August, you mean?

[3454] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 8 August. On 7 August, I think we communicated up to 7 August. And on 7 August, I did ask her should I come over on 8 August. Initially, she agreed to it, to meet up with her parents. But on the same day, I think later in the evening, she said she had already spoken to her parents about it and they are quite stable. But she did mention to me that she wanted to seek advice on another issue – I don't know whether should I say this, this is a bit personal – she wants to put on the hijab. So, she asked me whether

can we meet. So, I said, okay, I'm open to her, to meet up at any time. So, we didn't talk about it until on that day where she initiated these 4 or 5 October WhatsApp messages.

[3455] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 6 October?

[3456] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, so, the meeting was about —

[3457] **Mr Desmond Lee:** About the Muslim issues?

[3458] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, no, the meeting was about she wants to seek my advice on wanting to put on the hijab for herself —

[3459] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Oh, I see.

[3460] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — and whether there's any certain implication because she's a public figure.

[3461] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, this was the subject matter of the meeting on 7 October?

[3462] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3463] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she met you at 549 Bedok North?

[3464] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, that is my Town Council office.

[3465] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And 7 October was shortly after the Parliamentary Sitting on 4 October where she was asked by Minister Shanmugam about whether the anecdote about the Police was true or not.

[3466] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3467] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, she didn't speak to you at all on 7 October?

[3468] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3469] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Not a word about this?

[3470] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3471] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you.

[3472] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You're welcome.

[3473] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I next draw your attention to a Facebook post that Ms Khan had put out on 8 August. I'll just invite the Assistant Clerk. Do you have that? [*A social media post was referred to.*]

[3474] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Thank you.

[3475] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you see that Facebook post by Ms Khan on her social media platform dated 8 August? Maybe you take a minute to read through it.

[3476] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. I'm quite familiar with this.

[3477] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You're familiar?

[3478] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3479] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you're familiar with it because she had sent you the draft?

[3480] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3481] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the drafts were sent to you on 8 August itself?

[3482] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3483] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you had given some inputs to the draft?

[3484] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed. Yes.

[3485] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the inputs were reflected in her Facebook post?

[3486] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not totally. She did not agree with me asking her to insert one point. Because the issue here is for me to tell her to share with the public that she's not against the Islamic ruling on this. She's more concerned about the abuse that was brought about by this small segment of Muslim husbands who actually go into polygamy. So, I told her to make the record straight. "Please literally or physically state in your statement to say that you're not against the teaching of Islam." So, she decided not to.

[3487] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But she did take on board some of your comments. Am I right?

[3488] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, yes, because I did vet, I did look through the message.

[3489] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, basically, you vetted everything. You had given her some suggestions. She adopted all of them except for one point which you have just articulated and she explained to you why she did not accept that point. Am I right?

[3490] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3491] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then you just accepted her position?

[3492] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, in a way, I respect her rights to be comfortable with what she wants to put up.

[3493] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But otherwise she accepted everything you suggested? More or less?

[3494] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3495] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, that one point when she didn't agree with you, she explained to you and then you said you respected her view and then she proceeded to post this?

[3496] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, I told her twice to consider putting it in the statement.

[3497] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay, thank you.

[3498] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Welcome.

[3499] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I next show you a WhatsApp conversation between Ms Khan and her two closest assistants, Ms Loh Pei Ying and Mr Yudhishtira Nathan. Are you familiar with both Ms Loh Pei Ying and Mr Yudhishtira Nathan?

[3500] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. They are Party members. Yes. I'm not close to them but —

[3501] **Mr Desmond Lee:** They are both Workers' Party cadres?

[3502] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand, yes, they are.

[3503] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I'll now invite the Assistant Clerk to show you the extract of that WhatsApp conversation that they had. [*A message was referred to.*] This would be dated 3 November and it would be in Ms Loh Pei Ying's bundle which she submitted to the Committee of Privileges. Do you see that in front of you?

[3504] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3505] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the context of this exchange, just to give you the context because there's a lot of material in front of you and I want to give you the context. So, this is the 3 November WhatsApp exchange and the context of the exchange is that, the day before, on 2 November, the Workers' Party had announced the formation of a Disciplinary Panel with Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and you as the three members of the DP, right?

[3506] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Right.

[3507] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you see Ms Loh Pei Ying's comment, I quote, "I'm more confident they won't ask you to resign 'cause everyone will see them" – and I presume by "them", she meant Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and you – do you see that?

[3508] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, which page is that?

[3509] **Mr Desmond Lee:** This is page 165.

[3510] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, page 165.

[3511] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you see that? Page 165, 3 November, 3:42:08 pm. Do you see that?

[3512] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 3.42pm? Okay.

[3513] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 3.42 pm, Pei Ying: “And with that, I’m more confident they won’t ask to...” Do you see that?

[3514] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3515] **Mr Desmond Lee:** “cause everyone will see them as back-stabbers.” And then Ms Raeesah Khan, she’s “Raeesah WP”, right? 3.49 pm: “Honestly, the only one I think would never betray me in that way is Faisal. I’m grateful that he’s on the Panel.”

[3516] So, this is the view she had of you even though you were on the Disciplinary Panel. Yes?

[3517] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. But I don’t know what she meant by “would never betray her”.

[3518] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But that’s what she’s said to her two assistants, so, I’m just showing that to you as part of the context. And we’ll come back to the Disciplinary Panel later. So, just bear that in mind somewhere. Okay? Ms Khan is a first-term MP for the Workers’ Party?

[3519] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3520] **Mr Desmond Lee:** First time she’s a Member of Parliament and she’s 28 years old, roughly?

[3521] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3522] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And just over one year of experience as a Member of Parliament?

[3523] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3524] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can you look at the transcript by Ms Raeesah Khan, 2 December, page 106? I think it’s in front of you. 2 December material, page 106. Do you have that in front of you?

[3525] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3526] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you see Mr Edwin Tong says, somewhere one-third down the way. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1841.*]

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Right. I understand. Thank you.

Would it be fair to say, Ms Khan, that you placed some stock in the guidance that senior members of the Party would give you – Mr Singh, Ms Lim, Mr Faisal Manap – correct?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Correct.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: And I think that’s the reason why you went to them in the first place. Correct?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Correct.

- [3527] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I got it.
- [3528] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You see that part there?
- [3529] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.
- [3530] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, as the Vice Chairman of the Workers' Party and just looking at the exchange you've had with her and the comments that she had made about you, would it be the case that she generally listened to instructions, advice from you, from the leaders of the Party, the seniors?
- [3531] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3532] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Is she such a person, generally?
- [3533] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3534] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And if told to do something important, she would follow instructions, generally?
- [3535] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not based on my experience, because I did tell her about the comment that she made on Facebook. So, there are times when she did kind of like have her own views of things, yes.
- [3536] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But for that one, which is the basis of what you're saying now, she had explained to you why she disagreed with your suggestion?
- [3537] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3538] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you then decided that you would respect her views?
- [3539] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but I just want to address Minister's point that she always listened to us. I disagree to that.
- [3540] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No, I said "generally".
- [3541] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Generally, okay. Yes.
- [3542] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I just now make a general point about the Committee of Privileges and what we're doing here, before I go into the evidence. All witnesses before the Committee of Privileges are both under oath or affirmation, as you had just undertaken, to tell the truth, and that has legal significance.
- [3543] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, Minister.
- [3544] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The Committee of Privileges' role is to do fact-finding, as I articulated earlier: find out the circumstances, find out culpability and make recommendations to Parliament and we will lay it all before Parliament. But if testimony given under oath by different witnesses is starkly different, then we'll need to enquire what really happened, try to

get at what the truth is and may have to assign weight to what one person says versus what another person says. You understand?

[3545] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand very well.

[3546] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And, of course, other agencies may need to conduct their own inquiries as to what the truth may be, especially if this is under oath or affirmation.

[3547] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[3548] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, what the Committee of Privileges really wants to establish is the truth of the matter from all the witnesses, including yourself. Yes?

[3549] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Very clear.

[3550] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. Can I just, for place marker – because all this really started on 3 August – do you recall the Workers’ Party Motion by Ms He Ting Ru and Mr Leon Perera in Parliament on women’s empowerment?

[3551] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3552] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And Ms Khan had told an anecdote about the treatment of a sexual assault survivor by the Police. Yes?

[3553] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3554] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the Minister of State Desmond Tan had asked her to substantiate the allegation because he said, in his view, this was a serious matter and the Police needed to check what happened. Yes?

[3555] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And Ms Khan said the incident did happen, yes?

[3556] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3557] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you were in Parliament, in Chamber, when you heard that?

[3558] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3559] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you also heard Ms Indranee Rajah, Leader of the House, rise to reiterate to all Members of Parliament the importance of being able to substantiate serious allegations made against anyone outside Parliament, including public officers?

[3560] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3561] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, thank you. Can I just trouble you to turn to the transcript of 2 December by Ms Raeesah Khan, page 86. It's what you have in front of you, but go to page 86. You have that in front of you?

[3562] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3563] Mr Desmond Lee: And you see somewhere just underneath the middle. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1486.*]

Ms Raeesah Khan: Thank you. So, the first conversation that I had with any Party leadership that, the first time that I gave any sense that it was an untruth was on 7 August. And it was a short phone call, which then was followed by a meeting at Pritam Singh's house with the Chairman Sylvia Lim and Vice Chairman Faisal Manap.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: So, 7 August, there was a short phone call only with Pritam Singh?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Yes.

[3564] Mr Desmond Lee: You see that?

[3565] Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap: Yes.

[3566] Mr Desmond Lee: Were you aware of this phone call?

[3567] Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap: I'm not.

[3568] Mr Desmond Lee: At that point in time, 7 August, after that were you told about this phone call?

[3569] Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap: No.

[3570] Mr Desmond Lee: But you know now, today. Are you aware about it today?

[3571] Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap: Yes.

[3572] Mr Desmond Lee: Did anyone tell you prior to today that there was this phone call that Ms Khan made to Mr Pritam Singh to tell him that what she had said in Parliament was untrue?

[3573] Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap: I don't recall being told about that phone call.

[3574] Mr Desmond Lee: Okay. But you know now that this anecdote about Police treatment of this sexual assault survivor, it was false, that Ms Khan didn't accompany such a survivor to the Police station?

[3575] Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap: Yes, I'm aware.

[3576] Mr Desmond Lee: And, in your view, lying to Parliament, making a strong allegation about the Police which cannot be substantiated, in your view, is it a very serious matter?

[3577] Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap: A serious matter.

[3578] Mr Desmond Lee: Thank you. Can I now talk about this 8 August meeting at Mr Singh's house?

- [3579] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3580] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And I just brought you through that transcript. And 8 August 2021 is a Sunday, right?
- [3581] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3582] **Mr Desmond Lee:** It's a Sunday. And so, am I right that Ms Raeesah Khan, Ms Sylvia Lim and yourself went to Mr Pritam Singh's house?
- [3583] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3584] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And this would be in the morning? Can you remember?
- [3585] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Quite accurately, I think, 11 o'clock.
- [3586] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 11 in the morning, roughly?
- [3587] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yeah.
- [3588] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Who arranged this meeting? Do you know?
- [3589] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Pritam.
- [3590] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And how did he arrange it? He called you, messaged you, emailed you?
- [3591] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, again, allow me to explain how it comes to this point. Basically, I'd been having WhatsApp messages, exchange with Raeesah, as I mentioned, regarding the impact of her speech.
- [3592] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On the Muslim issues?
- [3593] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. And as I mentioned earlier, I was supposed to meet her on 8 August.
- [3594] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Which is the day when you met at the house?
- [3595] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but it was, kind of like, changed, during the latest communication I had – if I'm not mistaken of the date – on 7 August or much earlier; she decided not to have me at the house. So, the next morning I received a message from Pritam – Okay, before that, I was giving my views not only to Raeesah, but to Pritam, on the comment made by the Muslim community online. I kept on updating them because it's of concern to me. So, on 7 August – so, Pritam kind of decided, during the communication before 7 August or on 7 August itself, that we needed to do something about it, to come up with a statement.
- [3596] **Mr Desmond Lee:** About the statement?

[3597] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. So, I told her why don't we meet – okay, during that conversation, “Why don't we meet at your house to talk about this?” So, we agreed to meet. I think Pritam messaged me somewhere on 8 August, itself, in the morning, about 8.30 in the morning, and he told me that, “Okay, come over to my house. We can talk about this.”

[3598] So, that is my understanding at that point in time, that I'm there to meet Pritam and the rest, to talk about the two issues that was delivered by Ms Khan during the Motion.

[3599] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, am I right to say that on 8 August, you say roughly about 8.30 in the morning, you received a WhatsApp text from Mr Pritam Singh?

[3600] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3601] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And this WhatsApp text, I presume, would suggest that you come to his house on that very day?

[3602] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3603] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And he suggested the time or you suggested the time, 11.00 am, roughly?

[3604] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think it should be him.

[3605] **Mr Desmond Lee:** He suggested. And did he say in that text what that meeting was like to be about?

[3606] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because my understanding prior to that date, we were supposed to talk about the issue of coming up with a statement on the FGC and the polygamy issue, so that was my understanding then.

[3607] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, prior to this 8 August message to arrange for the meeting on that very day, prior to that, on 7 August, on 6 August, on 5 August, on 4 August, on 3 August, were there exchanges between you and Mr Pritam Singh about what Ms Khan had said in Parliament on 3 August?

[3608] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but about the FGC and the polygamy, not the about the lie regarding the Police —

[3609] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The FGC and the polygamy, okay. But nothing to do with the sexual assault survivor?

[3610] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[3611] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. Would you be able to, subsequent to this interview, be able to provide us with the relevant exchanges on your phone?

[3612] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You mean on the WhatsApp, is it?

[3613] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

- [3614] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, sure.
- [3615] **Mr Desmond Lee:** With regard to the Muslim issue.
- [3616] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [3617] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I mean, if some of it is sensitive, you can discuss with the Parliamentary staff, if it could be some position. But we want to know what it was about and that there was no discussion, as you say, about the sexual assault survivor?
- [3618] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3619] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And also, the messages on 8 August, itself, arranging for this meeting?
- [3620] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3621] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. So, prior to you reaching Mr Singh's house at about 11.00 am on 8 August, would I be right to say that there was no discussion that you had with Mr Singh or Ms Sylvia Lim about the meeting on 8 August? That means, on 8 August, you received that message.
- [3622] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3623] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then you went to his house. Before you arrived at the house, there was no further discussion?
- [3624] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't recall any.
- [3625] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Don't recall. But you'll check your messages just to be sure?
- [3626] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You mean now?
- [3627] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No, later.
- [3628] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.
- [3629] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, let's turn to 8 August meeting proper. If you recall, when you arrived, was Ms Khan already there or you arrived before her?
- [3630] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think she – she came in – I mean, she's the last to come.
- [3631] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She's the last to arrive?
- [3632] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3633] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Which means that when you arrive, Mr Singh, of course, welcomed you, it's his home. And Ms Sylvia Lim was there?

- [3634] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, she was there.
- [3635] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, of the three Workers' Party leaders who met that morning, you were the last to arrive?
- [3636] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3637] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And prior to Ms Khan coming into the house, did you all discuss what was going to be raised later, when she arrived?
- [3638] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't think so.
- [3639] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you just chatted about other things?
- [3640] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3641] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I just draw your attention to that same bundle in front of you, 2 December transcript of Ms Raeesah Khan's evidence to this Committee, page 87 and 88? So, it is just the next page.
- [3642] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3643] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You have that in front of you?
- [3644] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.
- [3645] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And somewhere at the top, and at this occasion Ms Lim and Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap were present. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1499.*]
- Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: And did you put it in clear terms to them as well that the statement you had made was false?
- Ms Raeesah Khan: Yes.
- Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Could they have misunderstood?
- Ms Raeesah Khan: No, they could not.
- [3646] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, can you confirm that she told you all clearly that what she said in Parliament on 3 August with respect to the sexual survivor was false?
- [3647] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** "Clearly" means, I understand what she said —
- [3648] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That means, she told you that she said something about the sexual assault survivor?
- [3649] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3650] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She had accompanied this 25-year-old sexual assault survivor, three years ago to Police station and then she came out crying. That statement to Parliament, she told you all, was not true?

[3651] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, what I can recall that she said that she lied in Parliament regarding that particular part of the speech.

[3652] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On sexual assault survivor.

[3653] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't exactly tell, share with you what she told us, word by word.

[3654] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. Thank you.

[3655] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Welcome.

[3656] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And if you look at page 88 and 89. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1533.*]

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: And that she [Ms Loh Pei Ying] felt that, in some ways, you had come clean and disclosed it to the senior leadership in the Workers' Party, and she felt that they would then handle the matter and decide the appropriate course. In a sense, leaving it in the hands of the senior members of the Party. In her words, she called Mr Singh a seasoned politician. Would that also have been your impression?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Yes.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: That would have been the reason why you went to them to tell them in the first place and to get counsel and guidance, correct?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Correct.

[3657] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, what Ms Khan is saying is that apart from being very clear to the three of you that she had lied about the sexual assault survivor in Parliament, that she went to see the three of you to seek advice and guidance and to come clean on what she had done to you and, to seek your guidance and advice on what to do next, correct? That's your understanding of what she's saying?

[3658] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3659] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And can I confirm with Mr Faisal that roughly about 11.00 am on 8 August 2021, was the first time you had heard about the sexual assault survivor anecdote being untrue?

[3660] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3661] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. And first time from Raeesah Khan herself, first time hearing from her directly or from anyone else?

[3662] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3663] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, looking at this exchange I just described, that she had gone to see the three of you at Mr Singh's house to come clean with the three of you and, of course, for you hearing for the first time that she had lied, and that she wanted to seek guidance, advice, direction on what to do? Yes?

[3664] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not sure whether she wants to —

[3665] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That's what she says?

[3666] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, that's what she said, yes.

[3667] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That's what she said. Thank you. Can you just look further down? Let me just point it out to you. Ms Khan said that Mr Pritam Singh's initial response was that she should go to the Committee of Privileges. Do you see that?

[3668] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, which page is that?

[3669] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Let me find the exact page for you. Page 87, do you see that? Somewhere beneath the first half, you see there. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1507.*]

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: It means, "If you can get away with it, we don't need to clarify the lie", correct?

Ms Raeesah Khan: I think in the simplest terms, yes, you are correct.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: And so the Workers' Party leadership was present there. Their initial reaction to being told that there was a lie or falsehood said in Parliament was to try and duck the issue, if possible, and if it doesn't come up, then the truth may not be told eventually, correct?

Ms Raeesah Khan: I have to say, though, that Pritam Singh's initial response was that I should go to the Committee of Privileges.

[3670] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you see that?

[3671] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. I saw that.

[3672] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you see her say that?

[3673] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry?

[3674] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You see that line?

[3675] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. I do.

[3676] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you hear that, that when she told the lie, Mr Singh's initial response was: "Please go to the Committee to clarify?"

[3677] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[3678] **Mr Desmond Lee:** He didn't say that?

- [3679] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [3680] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then you go on to the rest of the sentence, and I quote, Ms Khan says, after discussions and her explaining the circumstances that led her to the information in the first place, that changed.
- [3681] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, I can't follow you.
- [3682] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, page 87:
- Ms Raeesah Khan: I have to say, though, that Pritam Singh's initial response was that I should go to the Committee of Privileges. But after discussions and me explaining the circumstances that led me to the information in the first place, that changed.
- [3683] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You see it there?
- [3684] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do, yes.
- [3685] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, in short, she's saying that she had told Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and yourself that she had lied in Parliament on 3 August about the sexual assault survivor, right? You said, yes, you heard it from her for the first time?
- [3686] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. It was shared during the session.
- [3687] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The session?
- [3688] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3689] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And that from her recollection, the first thing that Mr Pritam Singh told her was, "Go to the Committee of Privileges", that is, come clean, explain, tell the untruth?
- [3690] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** This conversation didn't take place.
- [3691] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Didn't take place about Committee of Privileges?
- [3692] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3693] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I show you on the WhatsApp message, and this exhibit COP 9 that Ms Khan sent to Ms Loh Pei Ying and Mr Yudhishtira Nathan on 8 August, 12.41 pm. Assistant Clerk will put it in front of you. [*A message was referred to.*] Do you see that? This is extract 23.
- [3694] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, I didn't bring my reading glasses.
- [3695] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't bring your reading glasses. It's a bit small. May I read it to you and if you have any doubts, someone can read it for you as well?
- [3696] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I can see.

[3697] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You can see roughly. Before I bring you to that, you said you met around 11.00 that morning?

[3698] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3699] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 8 August?

[3700] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3701] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And was it a very long meeting or short meeting?

[3702] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think it lasted about an hour.

[3703] **Mr Desmond Lee:** An hour or so?

[3704] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3705] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 11.00 am, it ended about 12-ish, 12-something, at noon. And then, all of you left, except Mr Singh, of course, it's his home?

[3706] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3707] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you look at this message here – I know it's small – but 8 August 2021, 12.41 pm, you see that, right at the top of box 23?

[3708] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You mean the top portion, right?

[3709] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. "Raeesah, WP", I quote, "Hey, guys, I just met with Pritam, Sylvia and Faisal, and we spoke about the Muslim issues and the Police accusation." Correct? So, this is your recollection? She spoke about both issues – Muslim issues, which, in your view, was the FGC and polygamy, and the Police accusation, the sexual assault survivor, correct?

[3710] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3711] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And I carry on with what she says: "I told them what I told you guys and they have agreed that the best thing to do is to take the information to the grave. They also suggested that I write a statement to send out this evening."

[3712] And then you see her very next message at 12.42 pm, you see directly below that, and this is: "In my view —"

[3713] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry —

[3714] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Directly beneath that first message. It's not there, is it?

[3715] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's not.

[3716] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Then okay, never mind. It's okay.

- [3717] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I only got the portion that —
- [3718] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That portion, right. So, you see that message she sent out at 12.41 pm?
- [3719] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 12.41 pm? Yes.
- [3720] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And would you agree that this was very shortly after that meeting in Mr Pritam Singh's house with you and Ms Sylvia Lim shortly after?
- [3721] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, shortly because we finished at about 12:00, so, the message was at 12.41 pm.
- [3722] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 12.41 pm.
- [3723] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3724] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And if you look at this, she was sending this to her closest assistants, Ms Loh Pei Ying and Mr Yudhishthra Nathan, correct?
- [3725] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3726] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And her reference to, I quote: "Writing a statement to send out this evening." Would you agree this was that post I just showed you about that she wrote on 8 August talking about what she said about Muslim issues?
- [3727] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3728] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Which you had exchanged messages with her about?
- [3729] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [3730] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, when she said, "They suggested I write a statement to send out this evening", it is true? You had suggested or three of you had suggested somehow that she write a statement to put out on Muslim issues?
- [3731] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3732] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, that was correct, that part of her message was accurate?
- [3733] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Accurate.
- [3734] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But on the point about her saying, "take the matter to the grave." Do you agree that this is an accurate summary of what she said?
- [3735] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. No. Absolutely not.
- [3736] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You disagree with her. Then why not you tell us what each of you told Ms Khan on 8 August in respect of the sexual assault survivor anecdote that she had

explained to you? So, you're hearing this for the first time on 8 August, right? She tells you that she had told an untruth in Parliament about the sexual assault survivor?

[3737] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3738] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What was Mr Singh's advice or response or direction, whatever? What did he say?

[3739] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** During that meeting, right?

[3740] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

[3741] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, she came at about 11.00 am and 11-ish, and we sat together, four of us. So, she started off by saying that, "Pritam, are your daughters around?" Then she kind of like told Pritam to, if possible, get his daughters to be in the room. So, she wants to share something sensitive.

[3742] She started off by saying that she was [sexually assaulted] when she was 18, studying in Australia, and she broke down very badly. Personally, I'm taken aback. I'm kind of like my counselling instinct just come to me. So, I kind of like want to, intensely, hear more regarding the [sexual assault] that she told us about. Then I recall that she did mention after that that, "So, what I mentioned in Parliament is untrue."

[3743] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She? You mean she said that?

[3744] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. So, there's quite a silence to the situation because I was taken aback. I don't know how to react because she opened up, her account on sharing by saying that she was [sexually assaulted] at the age of 18. And, here I am, my Party colleague, opened up to us. Of course, I'm very stunned and very shocked to hear this from her. Basically, that happened and the focus after that was more to comfort her because she was crying, crying badly. So, that's where Pritam mentioned that, "Who else knew about it?" She mentioned four people. She mentioned Yudhish, Ms Loh Pei Ying – I call her "Pei Ying" – her therapist and her husband. Mr Pritam did ask her whether, "Are your parents aware of this?" She said, "No."

[3745] So, that's the whole discussion and I kind of come in and asked her, "Are you receiving any treatment? Are you attending any counselling?" As I mentioned, instinctively, as a former counsellor, I kind of like bring myself forward and offered my help. I did mention to her if she wants to go for counselling, I'm willing to do one for her and also to bring in an asatizah, a female religious teacher, to partner with me, to go through or basically to assist her in the matter. Yes. So, it takes quite a while for me, Pritam and Sylvia, to try to console and comfort her.

[3746] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Alright. So, just to recap, when she arrived, she asked Mr Singh's daughters not to be present?

[3747] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3748] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, they went into the room, correct?

- [3749] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3750] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she told you all – the first thing she said was about her own assault?
- [3751] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Assault.
- [3752] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, she didn't talk about the Muslim issues yet?
- [3753] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not yet.
- [3754] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, first thing was about her assault and then she said that the anecdote she told in Parliament was untrue?
- [3755] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Untrue.
- [3756] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What did she say about the anecdote in Parliament, what else? Do you recall?
- [3757] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Just a short declaration that she said it was untrue.
- [3758] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did Mr Singh, Ms Lim, yourself ask Ms Khan more about the untruth?
- [3759] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, because, as I mentioned, we are quite affected – personally, I'm affected listening to her confession, in terms of she's been [sexually assaulted]. So, as I mentioned, I instinctively – my counselling – I don't know the word – spirit of counselling instinct arise —
- [3760] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Your instinct as a counsellor was to ask whether she's been seeking treatment, whether she needed —
- [3761] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, indeed. For me is that her well-being was most important at that point in time.
- [3762] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. And you said that Mr Singh's response to her was, “Who else knew about this assault?”
- [3763] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3764] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she said Mr Yudhishthra Nathan, Ms Loh Pei Ying, her therapist and her husband, correct?
- [3765] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [3766] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And Mr Singh asked her whether her parents were aware, she said no.
- [3767] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3768] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What was Ms Sylvia Lim's immediate response, if you can recollect?

[3769] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think Ms Lim was just showing concern. I can't remember what exactly Ms Sylvia Lim mentioned, but the main thing that three of us did at that point in time, was to try to comfort her.

[3770] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Right, and after that, what else transpired during that meeting, apart from – she shared this very shocking news about her assault. Then she said that she had told the untruth in Parliament about another survivor that she had spoken about, and the three of you were focused on her well-being, as you say, about her own assault?

[3771] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[3772] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What else was discussed?

[3773] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, then I – because my purpose of going to attend the session on that day is to put a closure on the FGC and polygamy. That's what I discussed with her. Even though we did not know we were going to meet on 8 August, but to me and Pritam, I did mention to Pritam we need to put a closure to this. "Closure" means she needs to come out with a statement. So, after things toned down, I personally brought up the issue that we need to talk a bit more about this, because at the end of the day, I know she is affected – she was affected by that, because I've been in communication with her since on the 3 August, after the speech.

[3774] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Parliament speech?

[3775] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yeah, so I'm aware that she's not very comfortable about the public attention that she's facing. So, I need to do my part for her as well as, I feel, for the Party itself, because there's a lot of comments about her speech. So, I brought up the issue that we need to settle this on the issue of FGC and polygamy. That's why it was stated there that she came up – that she informed Yudhish and Ms Loh that she was told to write a statement and send out on 8 August, on the evening itself, on that day.

[3776] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay, so, you're saying that she talked about her own assault and that was shocking?

[3777] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3778] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you all spent time to find out more information, to offer her – check whether she had been treated, counselled —

[3779] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3780] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — show concern, and that was the conclusion of the discussion that morning about her own assault, correct?

[3781] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3782] **Mr Desmond Lee:** There was no decision on what to do with regards to her assault 10 years ago?

[3783] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, no decision.

[3784] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she also told you all that she had told an untruth in Parliament, correct?

[3785] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3786] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I'll come to that in a while.

[3787] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3788] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But then what you're telling me is that, also discussed that morning at some point, when she started to calm down and she could have a discussion on other things, that you talked about the issue of FGC, female genital cutting?

[3789] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Female genital cutting, yes.

[3790] **Mr Desmond Lee:** As well as polygamy.

[3791] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Polygamy.

[3792] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That she had raised on 3 August in her speech and you wanted to raise that after she had calmed down, because that was what you thought she had wanted to discuss with you about?

[3793] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, that's what the discussion was supposed to be on that day.

[3794] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And whose suggestion was it to put out a statement that day, on the 8 August?

[3795] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, I spoke to – I mean, I didn't speak to Pritam – I was doing WhatsApp with Pritam on 7 August, so that's where I told Pritam that she needs to come out with her own statement.

[3796] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you're saying that on 7 August, that is, the day before this meeting on 8 August, you had been discussing via WhatsApp, with Pritam Singh that she had to address these issues?

[3797] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Even during from – as I mentioned, from 3 to 7 August, I had been messaging Pritam as well as Raeesah, updating them about the Committee's views and concerns that are being put out on social media, I mean the comments.

[3798] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. So, I'm just saying on 8 August, on this issue of the FGC and polygamy, you had raised it. So, it was you who raised it, not Ms Khan, right?

- [3799] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [3800] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You raised it to her when you thought she was calm already?
- [3801] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3802] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And what did you tell her? You said “this is an issue which the community was concerned about, you must address it.”
- [3803] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. And she knows about it. She’s aware of it. She’s aware about it and also just to add on a bit, further down when we had the Disciplinary Panel interview with her, she did mention that she was actually contemplating whether to – just to show how concerned she was about the issue.
- [3804] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, I think we focus on 8 August. The DP, you want to talk about it later? We can come to it.
- [3805] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Well, I think I need to link it.
- [3806] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay, go ahead.
- [3807] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** So, to show what kind of state of mind she was during the period, 3 to 7 —
- [3808] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Of?
- [3809] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** August, of which I decided that we need to address this. Again, my concern is about her and how the implication towards the family. So, on 3 August –
- [3810] **Mr Desmond Lee:** “Towards the family” as in her parents?
- [3811] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Parents.
- [3812] **Mr Desmond Lee:** In regard to what she had said in Parliament about FGC and polygamy?
- [3813] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because at the back of my mind, as we know her father is Mr Farid Khan, is one of the community leaders. So, I do understand there might certain concern on that part, so I feel that it's good enough for me, I mean, it's right for me to meet up with them and to talk about the issue.
- [3814] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Right.
- [3815] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I just want to point out one point that how the mental state she was in back then, from 3 to 7 —
- [3816] **Mr Desmond Lee:** August.

[3817] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — to understand why I actually brought it up on 8 August that we must do something about this issue. So, she did mention to us, I mean, the three of us, Pritam, Sylvia and myself, that she was contemplating to resign as an MP because she felt that she was being a liability to the Party because of the speech, which is about FGC and polygamy. So, that was her state of mind back then.

[3818] **Mr Desmond Lee:** From 3 to 7 August 2021?

[3819] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. This is what she told us, I think, on 28 or 29 November, the second interview that we had with her, basically.

[3820] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Of what month?

[3821] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 28 or 29, the second —

[3822] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Of November, during the DP. Am I right?

[3823] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Can I just check my notes?

[3824] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Sure. Can I check are those notes prepared by yourself?

[3825] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I did. It's written by me.

[3826] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Are you able to provide a copy because you are referring to it for your testimony?

[3827] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Can.

[3828] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can you provide a copy to the Assistant Clerks, so we can refer to it?

[3829] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I would have only one copy.

[3830] **Mr Desmond Lee:** We can make a copy. Is it okay? So, that we can —

[3831] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sure.

[3832] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I think, Mr Faisal, when you're giving evidence, you should be giving evidence from your best recollection rather than material that may be provided, not necessarily by you, because we want to make sure that this is your evidence on affirmation, and not other people's.

[3833] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, sorry about that. I do remember that in one of the sessions – I think if not mistaken, 28 or 29 November – where she met us, she did mention that she wants to, she was contemplating to resign because of this issue that she brought up in Parliament and she felt that she's a liability to the Party. So, that's where my point —

[3834] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, she was very seized with the issue of what she had said about Muslim issues on 3 August?

[3835] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, she was disturbed about the comment and the reaction from the community.

[3836] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Right. So, therefore, on 8 August, after she had calmed down about her recollection or relating to you all about her sexual assault, that you then raised this issue of what she had said about FGC and polygamy on 3 August?

[3837] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3838] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And was it you who then suggested to her that she put up a post on 8 August?

[3839] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because it's what I've discussed with Pritam, and personally I did – I do feel that she needs to clear, she needs to make a statement.

[3840] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Clear the air?

[3841] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Clear the air and just need to, I mean, basically, say what she wants to say, basically. It's supposed to be her statement.

[3842] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, basically, what I'm saying is that, what you're telling us is that on 8 August, you raised the matter and you had then asked her to put out a post, a statement.

[3843] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3844] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she agreed with you?

[3845] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3846] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And did Mr Singh and Ms Lim also agree with you and Ms Khan on that course of action?

[3847] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** They were there.

[3848] **Mr Desmond Lee:** They were there and they didn't object?

[3849] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** They never object, yes.

[3850] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did they say, yes, this is a good thing to do?

[3851] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. As I mentioned, that's what me and Pritam discussed. Yes.

[3852] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 7 August, you had discussed with Pritam?

[3853] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Through WhatsApp.

[3854] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Through WhatsApp. What time was that? On 7 August? Was it at night?

[3855] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I really can't remember the timing wise.

[3856] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 7 August, you had already agreed with him that the best course was for Ms Khan to put out a post to explain her position.

[3857] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3858] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And therefore on 8 August, when you suggested that course of action, Ms Khan agreed. You knew that Mr Singh wouldn't object because you had already discussed the day before.

[3859] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[3860] **Mr Desmond Lee:** How about Party Chairman Ms Lim? She didn't say anything?

[3861] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, I'm not sure about her attendance there because the communication between me and Pritam is that we need to discuss about these particular issues. So, I believe that she never objected, so she's there.

[3862] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, in a way, what Ms Khan said in that WhatsApp message, "They also suggested that I write a statement to send out this evening", is correct.

[3863] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[3864] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, that is the sum total of what you discussed with Ms Khan on 8 August from 11.00 am to 12.00 pm, roughly.

[3865] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3866] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You had, of course, comforted her with regards to what she'd related about her sexual assault.

[3867] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3868] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then you talked to her about the Muslim issues that she'd spoken about?

[3869] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3870] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you suggested she put out a post. She agreed. That was the sum total of your involvement that day?

[3871] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed. Yes.

[3872] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What about the issue of her lying to Parliament on 3 August with regard to the sexual assault survivor that she allegedly accompanied to the Police station? Was that not something you all discussed? Because you said that it was the first time she had told the three of you —

[3873] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3874] **Mr Desmond Lee:** At least for you, that was the first time that you had heard about her telling an untruth in Parliament.

[3875] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3876] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you not raise this point?

[3877] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[3878] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Why did you not raise this point?

[3879] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because, as I mentioned just now, the first is that we were taken aback. And she opened up not telling us that the thing was untrue, that what she told in Parliament was untrue, but she told us she told us, she opened up her statement by saying she had been [sexually assaulted]. Okay, so the focus, as I mentioned just now, we were concerned about her. We kind of consoled her, tried to calm her down. So, and after a while, as I mentioned just now, my part comes in, I realised that we need to settle this issue because there's a bit, there was upset. I mean, the Muslim community was very upset about the whole issue. So, that is what we have discussed on that day. And we didn't actually pursue the matter on the lie regarding the, the lie that she mentioned about escorting the victim to the Police, which she mentioned in Parliament.

[3880] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't discuss it on 8 August?

[3881] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We didn't discuss it further.

[3882] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, let me just be very clear. Ms Khan comes in to Mr Singh's house on 8 August. One of the first things she says, apart from asking Mr Singh's daughters to be in the room, away from the conversation, was that she had been sexually assaulted. And that was very shocking to all of you?

[3883] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3884] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then the next thing she says is about her lying to Parliament about that anecdote, correct?

[3885] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3886] **Mr Desmond Lee:** These were the two things she talked about. So, two things. One was her own assault and the another one was her untruth to Parliament, right?

[3887] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3888] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you're saying that all you all talked about was her own assault and about Muslim issues. There was no other conversation.

[3889] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3890] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you recall that she had raised this issue about the lie in Parliament?

- [3891] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [3892] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You recall. It was in your mind at the time?
- [3893] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3894] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you settled her assault, in terms of comforting her —
- [3895] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3896] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — making sure she was supported. And you talked about Muslim issues. You didn't address that big issue of her lying in Parliament?
- [3897] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [3898] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What about Mr Singh? Did he address? In your recollection?
- [3899] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, there was silence. What I have shared earlier was what happened, what actually took place. So, we did not further discuss on the issue of the lying, which she uttered in, which she shared in Parliament.
- [3900] **Mr Desmond Lee:** When you say “we did not further discuss”, it means all four of you did not at all raise the issue of her lying in Parliament?
- [3901] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [3902] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Neither Ms Lim, nor Mr Singh —
- [3903] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [3904] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — asked her about that?
- [3905] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [3906] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And this was a one-hour conversation focused principally on her assault, which she raised. So, when she talked about the assault, you all responded to her, right?
- [3907] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not immediately, because we were shocked.
- [3908] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You were shocked, but the response was about her assault?
- [3909] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3910] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Then, she raised about her lying in Parliament. None of you all discussed this?
- [3911] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[3912] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No, right? No discussion? Then, she didn't raise it but you raised the issue of polygamy and FGC, right?

[3913] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3914] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then how did the meeting end? What was the conclusion? What was your takeaway from the meeting?

[3915] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, for me, as what Raeesah mentioned in her WhatsApp, we agreed that she needed to come out with a statement and to have it in her Facebook.

[3916] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, your takeaway from that one-hour meeting thereabouts was that, firstly, you heard about her assault.

[3917] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yup.

[3918] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You are now, on 8 August, aware that she had lied to Parliament, yes?

[3919] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3920] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And, thirdly, you had raised, on your own volition, and settled the issue of Muslim issues?

[3921] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. That was my main concern when I attended the discussion at Pritam's house.

[3922] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, but nonetheless, apart from that issue which you went to Mr Singh's house to talk about, which is the Muslim issues, you were now, at that point in time, in possession of two other startling facts, correct?

[3923] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3924] **Mr Desmond Lee:** One was Ms Khan had herself been sexually assaulted, right?

[3925] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3926] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And which you have said earlier that it was shocking. And the other thing that was also news to you, totally new to you, was that she had lied in Parliament about the anecdote about the sexual assault survivor she had accompanied to the Police station, yes?

[3927] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3928] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you went away with two additional pieces of information.

[3929] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Can I give my view on the statement made by Ms Raeesah on page 87?

- [3930] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You mean her transcript?
- [3931] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, transcript.
- [3932] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Go ahead.
- [3933] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It was mentioned, somewhere in the middle of the page, it was mentioned that “It was incredible disappointment. There was a lot of anger, but I think there was some compassion there as well.” I disagree when she mentioned there was a lot of anger. I just want to point out, basically. I feel strongly about that. There was no anger at all.
- [3934] **Mr Desmond Lee:** From all three of you?
- [3935] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3936] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Towards her?
- [3937] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [3938] **Mr Desmond Lee:** For lying in Parliament?
- [3939] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. As I mentioned, the sequence started as she admitted, she confessed that she'd been [sexually assaulted]. We were taken aback.
- [3940] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You were very shocked.
- [3941] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. I'm not – it's not that I'm not comfortable – I feel that she was not telling the truth when she said there was a lot of anger. There wasn't any anger at all.
- [3942] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, what would you describe it was?
- [3943] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Shock.
- [3944] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Shock. What else?
- [3945] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Compassion, yes. And we were kind of at a loss of how to react because this is due to shock.
- [3946] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you're saying that when she told you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim that she had told an untruth in Parliament, that she could not substantiate and which was false, you had no reaction whatsoever to that? You were neutral to that fact?
- [3947] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, because we were overwhelmed by the first point that she brought up. Naturally, when someone mentioned about the trauma that they had and followed by saying that she lied, I mean, we put ourselves, between me and my daughter, “Father, I was [sexually assaulted] but I lied to you”. Naturally, as human beings, I think we feel that, you would feel overwhelmed by the first statement that was, the first

confession that was made. So, I'm trying to say that there's no anger because we were overwhelmed by the feeling of shock.

[3948] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, can I just take you through what you've just said. That means, the first thing she said was she was, as you say, [sexually assaulted]. She was sexually assaulted.

[3949] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3950] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you all felt shock and then, compassion —

[3951] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3952] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — towards her. The other thing she says, and these are the only two things you are telling us she said on 8 August, that she had lied to Parliament.

[3953] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3954] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And so you're saying that there was no reaction by you or the other two Party leaders with respect to that?

[3955] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3956] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then after that, yes or no?

[3957] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I was referring, well, again, I brought it up because I feel it was untrue to say that there was a lot of anger.

[3958] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you're saying you were not upset that Ms Khan had said that she had lied to Parliament?

[3959] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm saying that I'm not angry. Because there was a claim made here that there was a lot of anger.

[3960] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She's saying in the context of her telling you about her untruth in Parliament?

[3961] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. She mentioned, "It was incredible disappointment. There was a lot of anger, but I think there was some compassion." Basically, I believe that when she rounded up how we felt at that point in time, once she, after the sequence, as I submitted to you the sequence, that she confessed about her being [sexually assaulted] —

[3962] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She shared with you all. She shared her traumatic experience.

[3963] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. So, again, this troubles me, page 87, which she mentioned that there was a lot of anger. That's something I want to highlight which I don't think is the truth; page 87.

[3964] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Maybe I take you through line by line. Look at the top. Mr Tong: “And did you put it in clear terms to them as well that the statement you had made was false?” That statement was about the anecdote. You follow, yes?

[3965] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, which line is this?

[3966] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Page 87, fifth line from the top. Mr Edwin Tong: “And did you put it in clear terms to them as well that the statement you had made was false?” You see that?

[3967] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3968] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, “statement was false” was the anecdote she said in Parliament about the Police?

[3969] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3970] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Ms Khan: “Yes.” Mr Tong: “Could they have misunderstood?” Mr Khan: “No, they could not.” Mr Tong: “What was their reaction to this?” “To this” means to the fact that she had told you all that her anecdote was false in Parliament.

[3971] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3972] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And her reply was, “It was incredible disappointment. There was a lot of anger, but I think there was some compassion there as well. The reaction was that if I were not to be pressed, then the best thing to do would be to retain the narrative that I began in August.” So, just take it one step at a time.

[3973] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[3974] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you agree that when Mr Tong asked Ms Khan, “Did you put in clear terms...that the statement was false?”, she was responding to Mr Tong's question about her anecdote?

[3975] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3976] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. So, she's saying to the Committee of Privileges, when she told you all that the anecdote was false, your reaction was incredible disappointment and a lot of anger to the false anecdote. To the false anecdote. So, my question to you is, what was your response when you heard her talk about the false anecdote in Parliament.

[3977] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Can I clear —

[3978] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Go ahead.

[3979] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — make things clearer?

[3980] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

[3981] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, the sequence was she told us about the [sexual assault]. Then immediately she mentioned that she lied in Parliament. So, one after another. There's no silence in between.

[3982] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She related the two things to you all?

[3983] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[3984] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you reacted to her telling you that she was a victim of sexual assault, a survivor?

[3985] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Just imagine that, one after another.

[3986] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

[3987] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Like, suddenly I was very pity towards her, sympathetic. I blocked the anger.

[3988] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you heard two things. One, she was a survivor of sexual assault —

[3989] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but the sequence is that: first, her confession of her being [sexually assaulted]. So, human emotions, as I mentioned to you all, naturally, we feel something for her, we feel deeply concerned about —

[3990] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Compassionate to her traumatic experience as a survivor?

[3991] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Compassionate, yes. Sorry, Minister. And I can't agree when she said “anger” because I know myself, how I react.

[3992] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. So, you're saying that you were compassionate towards her own traumatic experience?

[3993] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[3994] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you had no emotion at all about the other thing that she had shared with you all?

[3995] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, I was overwhelmed. And I gave you the example of me, let's say if I'm talking to my daughter, she mentioned she's been [sexually assaulted], “touch wood”. And after that she said, “But I lied to you”. Naturally, I feel that I'm being more overwhelmed by the feeling of sympathy.

[3996] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. So, I accept that's what you're saying to this Committee of Privileges, that you're telling us that you were overwhelmed by her sharing her own experience as a survivor of sexual assault. And that, am I right to say that you're telling us that you, therefore, did not think or feel anything about the second part of her statement which was about her false anecdote?

- [3997] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed —
- [3998] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Because you were overwhelmed —
- [3999] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Overwhelmed.
- [4000] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — by the first piece of information?
- [4001] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Which was said one after another, yes.
- [4002] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you told us earlier, Mr Faisal, that at some point in time you felt that the discussion about her being a survivor and her false anecdote had calmed down, she had calmed down, for you to move on to the next order of business.
- [4003] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [4004] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And here was a meeting where she told you she was a sexual assault survivor and that she had lied in Parliament. And then, without her bringing it up, at some point in time, things calmed down, and you could then bring up this topic of FGC and polygamy?
- [4005] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4006] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, when things had calmed down, did you not then address the issue of her falsehood to Parliament?
- [4007] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4008] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You had forgot about it or you felt that it was not something you want to raise? Or what?
- [4009] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I felt it is something which I don't want to raise because, as I mentioned just now, that she was still upset. Of course, she toned down, but she was upset. Again, I mentioned that the main reason for me to be at the session is actually to talk about this FGC. So, I feel that, I do agree with Pritam on 7 August that we need to have a statement to be out as soon as possible. So, at the end of day, that is my objective of coming to the meeting and I have to achieve that objective. Because the situation was bad and I also believe that she was really distressed about this issue also, which I relayed, to the point I met up, or we kind of had an interview with her, as the Disciplinary Panel, where she mentioned that she even contemplating to resign due to that particular episode.
- [4010] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. So, what you're telling us is that this was a meeting where Ms Khan came and opened herself up to say: number one, she was a sexual assault survivor, which was shocking; the other thing she said was that she had lied to Parliament, which was new to you. These are the two things she talked about, according to you. All three of you were very focused on her own experience as a survivor.
- [4011] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Overwhelmed.

[4012] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Overwhelmed. You all calmed her down. And the very next thing you talked about was not the second thing she talked to you all about, which is her lie in Parliament, but you jumped straight to your focus —

[4013] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4014] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — which was about the Muslim issues that were raised?

[4015] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4016] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, the sum total of what you take away from that meeting, apart from the two new pieces of information that you were in possession, with regard to the anecdote and her own experience as a survivor, was that she was going to put up a post that very evening, that same evening she told you she had been sexually assaulted and that she had lied in Parliament, the only thing you all agreed on was that she would put up a post about FGC and polygamy, yes?

[4017] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4018] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. So, you would agree that the meeting ended at about 12-plus on 8 August?

[4019] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Around that, yes.

[4020] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And that this WhatsApp message to her closest assistants, Ms Loh Pei Ying and Mr Yudhishthra Nathan, was at 12.41 pm, shortly after the meeting? You agree, right? You said it earlier?

[4021] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4022] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And that she had said that they agreed, they discussed two things, Muslim issues and Police accusation. On Muslim issues, you agree, when she said that, “They suggested that I write a statement” or she write a statement to send out this evening, you agree?

[4023] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4024] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But what you’re saying is you don’t agree that you all discussed the Police accusation and that they agreed, or you, Mr Singh and Ms Lim agreed that the best thing to do is to take the information to the grave? You didn’t discuss at all —

[4025] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4026] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — the issue of —

[4027] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4028] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — the falsehood in Parliament, yes?

[4029] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4030] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. So, do you agree with me, therefore, that what Ms Khan had just said in the Committee of Privileges and what she said contemporaneously in her WhatsApp to her closest assistants, and what you are telling us today, are starkly different?

[4031] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4032] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Totally different?

[4033] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Totally different.

[4034] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She said that you all discussed two things: Muslim issue as well as the issue of sexual assault. That on Muslim issues, the decision is to put up a post. On sexual assault anecdote, take it to the grave. You disagree with the second, but not the first? Which means you agree on Muslim issues being clarified in a post?

[4035] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4036] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You disagree that the anecdote about sexual assault was discussed and you disagree with her that the decision was to take this lie in Parliament to the grave?

[4037] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Disagree.

[4038] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Disagree, okay. Can I just check with you: do you have or are you aware of any notes of meeting, any records, any messages, any emails, any WhatsApp, any Telegram, any post that summarise what you all had discussed on 8 August? Because this was a meeting with a lot of significance, right?

[4039] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4040] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Would you say this was a meeting where important things were discussed?

[4041] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, important things were discussed to clear the air, yes, regarding the FGC and the polygamy —

[4042] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Was there any subsequent record of what transpired?

[4043] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4044] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No information was put down on a message or email?

[4045] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4046] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did the three of you update any other member of the Workers' Party CEC?

[4047] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4048] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Not at all?

- [4049] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4050] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I now just focus on actions taken in the immediate aftermath of this meeting.
- [4051] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** After the 8 —
- [4052] **Mr Desmond Lee:** This 8 August ended around 12-plus?
- [4053] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4054] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And this was a meeting where you learned for the first time about Ms Khan's traumatic experience as a survivor. You learned from Ms Khan that she had said a mistruth in Parliament about the Police and you had settled with Ms Khan about what to do about the Muslim issues, right? This was the meeting. I want to talk about the immediate aftermath, what happened for the rest of the day.
- [4055] So, am I right that immediately after this meeting, there were a flurry of messages between some of you, maybe Ms Khan, yourself, Mr Singh, Ms Lim, about the Muslim issues? That means the post she was going to put on 8 August.
- [4056] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's between me and Ms Khan.
- [4057] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, it was just two of you exchanging WhatsApp messages?
- [4058] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4059] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she sent you a draft of what she going to say and you replied back?
- [4060] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She did.
- [4061] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you, at any point in time in the exchange of 8 August, raise with her, discuss with her, comfort her about her experience as a sexual assault survivor?
- [4062] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4063] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You can't recall or you're sure it didn't happen?
- [4064] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't recall — on 8 August, itself, right?
- [4065] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.
- [4066] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't recall that we pursued the matter of her being a [sexual assault] victim.
- [4067] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you would be able to later verify with your messages that that was the only thing discussed?

- [4068] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4069] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you.
- [4070] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Welcome.
- [4071] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, am I right to say that on 8 August, after you all left Mr Singh's home, there was no discussion with Ms Khan about the anecdote in Parliament?
- [4072] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4073] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You did not discuss with Mr Singh or Ms Lim, on 8 August, about Ms Khan's anecdote in Parliament?
- [4074] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4075] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you, Mr Singh, or Ms Lim, to the best of your knowledge, clarify with Ms Khan what the conclusion of 8 August meeting was?
- [4076] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On 8 August?
- [4077] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you all say, "8 August, we discussed this, this is the summary." Did you do that?
- [4078] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You mean on 8 August, itself?
- [4079] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.
- [4080] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4081] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you know that after the August Sitting of Parliament, there was a Sitting of Parliament in September?
- [4082] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4083] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Scheduled for 13 September?
- [4084] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4085] **Mr Desmond Lee:** There was no draft, statement, or post, or media release prepared with regard to clarifying the falsehood that she had said in Parliament about the Police?
- [4086] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4087] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No. That means you are sure there wasn't or to your knowledge
- [4088] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Very sure.

[4089] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Very sure there was nothing, no preparation at all for the Sitting of Parliament in September?

[4090] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4091] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You had no meetings physically, virtually, about the falsehood she had said in Parliament?

[4092] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4093] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't pursue or follow up on the fact that she told you all that she had lied in Parliament?

[4094] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4095] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the rest of the CEC was not told, after 8 August or on 8 August, about the points she had made, that is, her own experience as a survivor as well as her untruth in Parliament?

[4096] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Nothing mentioned.

[4097] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Nothing was mentioned to the CEC?

[4098] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4099] **Mr Desmond Lee:** There was no discussion on or after 8 August, but prior to 4 October, nothing discussed about explaining to Parliament about the untruth about the Police, nothing about coming clean to the public, no?

[4100] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Nothing that I'm privy to.

[4101] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you check, at any point in time on or after 8 August, about whether Ms Khan would be telling her parents about her own experience?

[4102] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4103] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you just left it?

[4104] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4105] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That means the last time you discussed with Ms Khan about her own experience as a sexual assault survivor was in the morning on 8 August?

[4106] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4107] **Mr Desmond Lee:** There was no further discussion with her by you?

[4108] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, by me.

[4109] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And there was no discussion at any point by you with Ms Khan, on or after 8 August, with respect to her falsehood said in Parliament?

[4110] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4111] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't discuss it with her?

[4112] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4113] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you were aware, on and after 8 August, that she had lied in Parliament?

[4114] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4115] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You were aware, but you did not raise it with her, you didn't follow it up —

[4116] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4117] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — didn't question her. So, in short, between 8 August and the Parliament Sitting in September, 13 September, in fact all the way to 3 October, which is the day before the October Sitting, there was no preparation, no discussion, no work done to prepare to clarify this falsehood that she had told you all about?

[4118] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not that I'm privy of.

[4119] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Not that you're privy of. You're not aware?

[4120] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. For myself, I have not, actually, I did not communicate any further.

[4121] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Could it be the case that Ms Khan was correct that three of you all had told her to take the truth to the grave —

[4122] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4123] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — and that means if the truth is not pressed, just let it be? Let it lie?

[4124] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4125] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No. You disagree with her?

[4126] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Disagree.

[4127] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you're saying that Ms Khan was not truthful —

[4128] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4129] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — in the WhatsApp message immediately after the meeting on 8 August —

[4130] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4131] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — and that she's telling an untruth to the Committee of Privileges?

[4132] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4133] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you. Let me now move to the 4 October Parliament Sitting. You know that Parliament sat on 4 October?

[4134] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4135] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You were in Parliament that day?

[4136] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I came late.

[4137] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You came late?

[4138] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4139] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you heard the Minister for Home Affairs make the Ministerial Statement?

[4140] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I reached Parliament about 1.00 pm to 1-plus because I remember on that day I fetched my daughter, she had a PSLE paper. So, I'm there to give her support.

[4141] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. But when you arrived in Parliament, were you aware that there was an exchange between Ms Khan and Minister Shanmugam about the anecdote that she had said in August?

[4142] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, because I came in late.

[4143] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You came in late. Nobody told you about this exchange?

[4144] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Later on, I did see someone actually WhatsApped me, in my Whatsapp, there was a media report about it. Then I realised that the actions took place before I came in.

[4145] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What time, roughly, did you become aware?

[4146] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not sure because there was a lot of sharing of WhatsApp.

[4147] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you're saying that on 4 October, itself, while Parliament was sitting, and Parliament sat until nearly midnight, if you recall.

- [4148] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4149] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You were aware on that day that there was this exchange between Minister Shanmugam and Ms Khan?
- [4150] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4151] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you were aware on 4 October that Ms Khan had repeated the untruth and said that there was indeed such an incident where she accompanied a survivor?
- [4152] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, though the media report.
- [4153] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The media report? That was on 4 October itself?
- [4154] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4155] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you know roughly when you knew about it? Was it late in the afternoon? Certainly, by the end of the day, you were aware? Yes?
- [4156] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can say that, yes.
- [4157] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, at what point did you become aware of that?
- [4158] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't remember because it's just when people sharing in WhatsApp, I don't actually take a look at the time, so I cannot give you an exact time. Honestly, I don't remember that.
- [4159] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you're saying that the first time you became aware of this exchange where Ms Khan reiterated that falsehood was through WhatsApp?
- [4160] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4161] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Amongst Workers' Party MPs, I presume.
- [4162] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Maybe. Not from the Workers' Party MPs but from my other contacts.
- [4163] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Your other contacts?
- [4164] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4165] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That means people sent you a message about a media report about this exchange?
- [4166] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4167] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you recall was it Straits Times, was it CNA?
- [4168] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't recall.

- [4169] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Was it Yahoo News? You can't remember?
- [4170] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't recall.
- [4171] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you received information about that?
- [4172] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, meaning to say that I only knew about it through a media report, through the WhatsApp platform.
- [4173] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, did you realise at that point in time that Ms Khan had repeated what she said on 3 August? Were you aware?
- [4174] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4175] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And because you had heard it from her on 8 August that she had lied then, did you realise on 4 October, when you read that media article that, in fact, when she insisted it was true, that was false?
- [4176] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again?
- [4177] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You said that 8 August, she told Mr Singh, Ms Lim and yourself that she had told an untruth in Parliament about the Police?
- [4178] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4179] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 8 August, she told you. Then, on 4 October, you received a media article sent by someone?
- [4180] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sharing.
- [4181] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Sharing. That Mr Shanmugam had asked her whether that incident took place and she replied, "Yes, it did take place." She did accompany a survivor. Were you aware on 4 October, when you read the article, that, in fact, Ms Khan was repeating a falsehood?
- [4182] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4183] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You became aware?
- [4184] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4185] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you became aware because you remembered what she told you on 8 August, right?
- [4186] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4187] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Because the news article you received on 4 October would just have said that the Home Affairs Minister asked Ms Khan to confirm whether such a thing that happened —

- [4188] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4189] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And she said indeed, that happened. So, she stood her ground to say the anecdote did happen?
- [4190] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4191] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And to the public, it was her insisting. The public, the media, none of us would know it was a falsehood, except for Ms Khan, yourself, Mr Singh and Ms Sylvia Lim, correct, because of what she had told you on 8 August?
- [4192] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The same goes with Ms Loh and Mr Yudhish.
- [4193] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And same for Ms Loh and Mr Yudhishthra Nathan?
- [4194] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4195] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you were aware on 4 October that she had repeated a falsehood in Parliament?
- [4196] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I'm aware.
- [4197] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 3 August, falsehood; 4 October, she repeated the falsehood to the Home Affairs Minister in Parliament?
- [4198] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4199] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What went through your mind when you saw that article and you realised, you put two and two together, she repeated a falsehood because of what you heard about on 8 August? What went through your mind?
- [4200] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, to be honest, nothing came to me in a drastic manner. Basically, I just feel that why has she not want to tell the truth, when she opened up to us, right? So, that's what came to me, basically.
- [4201] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you just told us that on 4 October, you came to Parliament after this Ministerial Statement.
- [4202] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mm-hmm.
- [4203] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't hear this discussion between Minister Shanmugam and Ms Khan?
- [4204] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mm-hmm.
- [4205] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You then received a media article from someone and it was about this exchange. Yes?
- [4206] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4207] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then, you realised that when she repeated the anecdote, she was, in fact, saying on this occasion, again repeating a lie. You knew. And you knew it was a lie because of 8 August?

[4208] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4209] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And what you're saying is that your reaction was: why did she lie again when she had told you, Mr Singh and Ms Lim. Yes?

[4210] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4211] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And did you expect that this issue would arise, this question of whether she had lied in Parliament in August? Did you expect it to arise in October?

[4212] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4213] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 3 August, you know that Minister of State Desmond Tan had asked her for substantiation? You were aware, right?

[4214] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4215] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. And so, here was the Home Affairs Minister asking for substantiation again in October. You were not anticipating it?

[4216] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4217] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Would you know if Mr Singh had visited Ms Raeesah Khan at her home on 3 October?

[4218] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4219] **Mr Desmond Lee:** He didn't tell you?

[4220] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4221] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Not aware?

[4222] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I was not aware.

[4223] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You were not aware that this happened.

[4224] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not aware.

[4225] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Ms Khan told the Committee of Privileges and this is the 2 December transcript, page 83, if you could just look at it. You showed me page 87, so just a few pages before that. Page 83.

[4226] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Page 83, okay.

[4227] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You have that in front of you?

[4228] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.

[4229] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, let me just take you through that page to orientate you.

[4230] From the top, Mr Tong talks about the 3 August speech that Ms Khan had made and the anecdote. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1428.*]

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Subsequently, you have admitted that that anecdote was false and it never happened. Correct?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Correct.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: In October, there was a further Parliamentary Sitting, and this is about two months after the speech was made. And in October, you had been asked various questions by Minister Shanmugam in relation to details such as the Police station, which date, what location and some specifics of the occasion. And he also asked you to confirm that whatever you had said had, in fact happened, and you did confirm that. And you subsequently also agreed with Ms Indraneel Rajah, the Leader of the House, that those statements were also false. Correct?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Correct.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Alright. I would like you to just pause for a moment in October...

Ms Raeesah Khan: Before the October Sitting, I had a conversation with Leader of the Opposition, Pritam Singh, and the conversation was that if I were to retain the narrative or if I were to continue the narrative, there would be no judgement.

[4231] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You see that line there?

[4232] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4233] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And that is Ms Khan. That's what she said. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1436.*]

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Can you tell us which date this took place?

Ms Raeesah Khan: 3 October.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Where did this take place?

Ms Raeesah Khan: In my house.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Was there anyone else present besides the two of you?

Ms Raeesah Khan: No, there was not.

[4234] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Were you aware of this visit that Ms Khan told the Committee of Privileges happened on 3 October?

[4235] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4236] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No, you were not aware?

[4237] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not aware.

[4238] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you know that Parliament sat for two days, 4 and 5 October?

[4239] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4240] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And I believe you did speak on 5 October? You had some speech in Parliament.

[4241] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Adjournment Motion, I believe.

[4242] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Mm?

[4243] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I spoke on an Adjournment Motion, I believe.

[4244] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That's right. Adjournment Motion. And did you discuss with Ms Khan why she had lied again on 4 October, after you received that news article?

[4245] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4246] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't speak to her at all?

[4247] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4248] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't message her?

[4249] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4250] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you speak to Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim, about this?

[4251] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4252] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't ask them what was going on?

[4253] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4254] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, the whole of 4 October, after you were aware from the media article and your personal knowledge of 8 August that Ms Khan had not only lied on 3 August but repeated the untruth on 4 October in Parliament, you took no action, whatsoever?

[4255] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4256] **Mr Desmond Lee:** At all?

[4257] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** At all.

[4258] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You're the senior MP, you are the Workers' Party Vice Chairman.

[4259] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand that.

[4260] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She had told you, right, personally to you that she had lied. You didn't take any action at all?

[4261] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4262] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Were you aware of any meetings that senior Workers' Party leaders had with Ms Khan on 4 October?

[4263] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4264] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Were you aware?

[4265] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not.

[4266] **Mr Desmond Lee:** At all? You were not involved at all?

[4267] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** At all.

[4268] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, on 5 October, the very next day, did you find out about this exchange between Minister Shanmugam and Ms Khan, because Minister Shanmugam said this matter will not rest, the Police will try to find out and establish more. Were you not concerned that this was a serious issue?

[4269] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't have that concern. Okay, just to state that from 8 August, right, as I mentioned earlier, I do not have any kind of communication with Raeesah. And I did not actually communicate the matter further even with Sylvia and Pritam. That's why I'm not privy to all, as you mentioned, at the meeting on 3 October.

[4270] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Right. So, on 5 October, Raeesah didn't stand up in Parliament to clarify her untruths, right?

[4271] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4272] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Not to your knowledge?

[4273] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not to my knowledge.

[4274] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And as a matter of fact, she did not?

[4275] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4276] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And as a matter of fact, neither Mr Singh nor Ms Lim nor yourself stood up to talk about the issue of the falsehood.

[4277] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4278] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you also didn't write to Parliament about this?

[4279] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** None of us stood up.

[4280] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you didn't check with Mr Singh, Ms Lim or any CEC member about what to do arising from the Home Affairs Minister's exchange with Ms Khan about the falsehood? No?

[4281] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4282] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I ask you to take a look at the media statement by the Police? Maybe the Assistant Clerk can put it in front of you. This was a media statement that the Police put out. It's public information but I'll have it placed in front of you. Do you have that in front of you? [*A media statement was referred to.*]

[4283] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4284] **Mr Desmond Lee:** If you look at the next page, it's dated 20 October 2021, 2.00 pm. Do you have that, the date? It says "Police Statement".

[4285] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4286] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And it said that: "On 3 August, MP Ms Khan said in Parliament that three years ago, she had accompanied a 25-year-old victim to make a Police report." You see that?

[4287] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.

[4288] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then further down, 4 October, Home Affairs Minister asked Ms Khan to provide more information. She declined, citing confidentiality. Minister said Police will ask Ms Khan to go for an interview.

[4289] Next paragraph, SSCB, Serious Sexual Crime Branch of CID, which investigates rape offences sent an email to Ms Khan on 7 October. You see that?

[4290] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4291] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 7 October. Requesting her to get in touch with the Police by 14 October to arrange for an interview. Were you aware of this request by the Police to Ms Khan?

[4292] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm aware of the request made by the SPF.

[4293] **Mr Desmond Lee:** To her?

[4294] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4295] **Mr Desmond Lee:** When were you aware of that? Was it on the day or shortly after that?

[4296] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think should be on the day.

[4297] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On the day the request was made to her?

- [4298] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4299] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And how did you come to have knowledge of that information?
- [4300] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay. Actually, I did receive an email which was addressed to me, Pritam and Sylvia.
- [4301] **Mr Desmond Lee:** From who?
- [4302] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** From Raeesah. Sorry, from Ms Khan.
- [4303] **Mr Desmond Lee:** From Ms Khan?
- [4304] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think if I'm not mistaken, it's dated 7 October, mentioning that there's a request from the Police regarding this.
- [4305] **Mr Desmond Lee:** In the email she sent to you?
- [4306] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4307] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Will you be able to provide that email exchange for us later?
- [4308] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4309] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What did she say in that email?
- [4310] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, just forward what you call it
—
- [4311] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Police request?
- [4312] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Just to inform us, if I'm not mistaken, she also did mention that she will consult a lawyer.
- [4313] **Mr Desmond Lee:** It's in the email?
- [4314] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I believe it is in the email. I may be wrong, I need to really refer back to it.
- [4315] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You produce it to us later?
- [4316] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry?
- [4317] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can you produce it to us later, yes?
- [4318] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Can.
- [4319] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And when you saw that, did you reply to her?
- [4320] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I did not.

- [4321] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you suggest any course of action that she should take?
- [4322] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I did not.
- [4323] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't. Did you see any reply by the other two persons who were addressees: Mr Singh or Ms Lim?
- [4324] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't recall seeing any reply.
- [4325] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Don't recall? Okay. Do you know whether Ms Khan went to the Police station to respond to this?
- [4326] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I wasn't aware of that.
- [4327] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You're not aware?
- [4328] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't know.
- [4329] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Were you aware of this media release? Did you see this media release at any point in time, this Police media release I just put in front of you?
- [4330] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I got to know about this, but I can't remember from which source, whether the media or someone told me or WhatsApp. I can't remember that.
- [4331] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, maybe I'll show you The Straits Times article which is online, maybe we can put it in front of you as well, dated 20 October. I'm not sure if the Assistant Clerk has that. I believe it was tendered previously: "Alleged mishandling of sexual assault case. No response from WP MP Raeesah, says Police." You see the news article? [*A news article was referred to.*]
- [4332] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4333] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Basically, if you look at the article, which is quite brief, it reiterates what the Police had said in that Police media release that I just showed you; that they invited Ms Khan on 7 October to respond by 14 October. She did not respond. Another email was sent on 15 October, asking her to reply by 18 October. And she did not respond. Were you aware that she did not respond to the Police?
- [4334] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4335] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you, as Workers' Party Vice Chairman —
- [4336] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4337] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — and as CEC member, question her about why she did not respond to the Police?
- [4338] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. The point in time, after 8 August, right, as I mentioned, I did not pursue this issue with Pritam or Sylvia.

[4339] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Nor with Ms Khan?

[4340] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, the three of them.

[4341] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you didn't involve yourself in this matter about her lying to Parliament at all?

[4342] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because I believe that Pritam – as you mentioned – Pritam, as the Secretary-General, Raeesah is closer to him, as compared to us. Because she volunteered with Pritam at his ward.

[4343] **Mr Desmond Lee:** When you say “us”, you’re meaning yourself and Ms Lim is it?

[4344] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4345] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay.

[4346] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** So, I believe that since Pritam knows her well and the three of us knows about what was going on, so my assumption at that point in time, was Pritam to actually do the needful; what he needs to do.

[4347] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, in your mind, this issue of her, Ms Khan, saying a mistruth to Parliament in August and October, was something for Mr Pritam Singh to deal with?

[4348] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4349] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you tell Mr Singh that —

[4350] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I didn't talk to him in that way. It's kind of my understanding, my assumption that since the three of us knew about it, and Pritam is the one who is closer to her, I believe that he knows how to manage the situation better.

[4351] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did Mr Singh update you at any point in time about how he was managing this untruth that Ms Khan had made?

[4352] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4353] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No. Let me turn to 12 October. Ms Khan had told this Committee that on 12 October, she had met Mr Pritam Singh and Ms Sylvia Lim at Mr Pritam Singh's home. Were you aware of that meeting?

[4354] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4355] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You're aware of the meeting now, before you came into the Committee of Privileges?

[4356] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4357] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And how did you become aware of that meeting?

[4358] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** After the thing went public, right, there was a discussion —

[4359] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Public on which day? I mean, when did it become public, what's that —

[4360] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, no, what I mean is that, I only knew, after we formed the DP. There's a bit of discussion. Then I, kind of, realised that there were a few meetings between Pritam and Raeesah, as well as Sylvia and Raeesah.

[4361] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you became aware of the 12 October meeting much later?

[4362] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Much later, correct.

[4363] **Mr Desmond Lee:** When you say this matter became public, I presume on or after 1 November?

[4364] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because when we formed the Disciplinary Panel, I am part of the DP, so we have to discuss a bit more. So, I only know about the meeting after I'm part of the DP.

[4365] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay. So, on 12 October or immediately after 12 October, you were unaware of this meeting?

[4366] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Unaware.

[4367] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Unaware. But you were aware that Ms Khan was drafting a statement to explain her untruth to Parliament?

[4368] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On 12 October?

[4369] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No, after 12 October.

[4370] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** After 12 October, I know about it when she actually want to come out to make the confession. And then, of course, there was a meet-up between us, the MPs as well as the CEC of the Party, for her to show what she's going to say in Parliament. I think that one was —

[4371] **Mr Desmond Lee:** When was that? Sometime in October, roughly? Was it before 1 November? Obviously, it must be, right?

[4372] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, 1 November is the Sitting —

[4373] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, when she came out with her personal statement, remember?

[4374] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On Monday, right? So, on the Friday before. So, it must be on 29, 28 October.

[4375] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I'm just looking at my calendar. So, 1 November, she went to Parliament —

[4376] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4377] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — to give her personal statement to say that she had misled Parliament in August and October. So, that was 1 November. It was a Monday. And you're saying that this was on a Friday —

[4378] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4379] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 29 October?

[4380] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4381] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 29 October, you and the rest of the Workers' Party CEC, including Mr Singh and Ms Lim, met Ms Khan —

[4382] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4383] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — to go through her statement?

[4384] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not to go through, but for her to tell us what she's going to say in Parliament and for us to hear what she has to say. “Go through” means for her to share with us, basically.

[4385] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And so, she read out her statement?

[4386] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, indeed.

[4387] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Remember, at the start of this session, I asked you that she messaged you on 30 October, saying, “What do you think of my statement” —

[4388] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4389] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And 31 October, you replied to say, “Sorry, I replied late, but I thought it was good that you come clean and you are very courageous, respect to you”, remember?

[4390] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4391] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, prior to that, you must have read or heard what she's going to say?

[4392] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, because the message was on 30 October —

[4393] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, so, 29 October; and so this confirms, huh?

[4394] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4395] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, are you saying that 29 October was the very first time you became aware that Ms Khan was going to clarify in Parliament about the untruths?

- [4396] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4397] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 29 October?
- [4398] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 29 October.
- [4399] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you found out only when you heard it there and then from Ms Khan?
- [4400] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4401] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, prior to 29 October, you were totally unaware that that she was preparing to go to Parliament to clarify what had happened? You were totally unaware?
- [4402] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I wasn't aware.
- [4403] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't ask anyone?
- [4404] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4405] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Nobody told you?
- [4406] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4407] **Mr Desmond Lee:** After the exchange between Minister Shanmugam and Ms Khan on 4 October in Parliament, there was a lot of activity, based on what the Committee of Privileges has found over the last few Sittings. There were meetings on how to respond to him, how to respond to the Police queries. There were a variety of meetings discussing the statement that Ms Khan would make. There was some discussion about the consulting lawyers, because you said that you received an email from Ms Khan, saying that she would consult a lawyer.
- [4408] There were drafts to Compassvale residents, volunteers and so on. And so, a lot of things happened after the 4 October Parliament Sitting, all the way culminating on 1 November, where Ms Khan spoke in Parliament to explain what had happened in October and August, right?
- [4409] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4410] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You were unaware of all that, other than the 29 October meeting?
- [4411] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And the email.
- [4412] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And that email on 7 October?
- [4413] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4414] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Other than those two incidents, you had no inkling at all that things were being done in anticipation of her finally deciding to come clean with Parliament?
- [4415] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, you're right.

[4416] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, basically, from your point of view, 8 August, at Mr Singh's house, Ms Khan told you and the others that she had told a mistruth to Parliament; all the way to the Sitting of Parliament on 4 October, you did not involve yourself at all with what she told you about the falsehood?

[4417] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, you are right.

[4418] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 4 October, you read from a media article that Ms Khan had lied again.

[4419] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4420] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you can that only a few people knew that she had lied, because she told you on 8 August?

[4421] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4422] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the rest of the public, the media, would not know better?

[4423] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4424] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 4 October, when that penny dropped about her repeating the falsehood, all the way until 29 October, you were not involved at all? You didn't pursue, you didn't ask anything?

[4425] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4426] **Mr Desmond Lee:** As the Workers' Party Vice Chairman, you didn't?

[4427] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4428] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And as someone who – Ms Khan, being someone who had asked you for advice, counsel on a number of different occasions, you didn't give her any advice, you didn't guide her, didn't —

[4429] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because in terms of counselling, we discussed what is what are being presented to us. So, when Ms Raeesah Khan did mention, did ask me to get up, as I mentioned earlier, as we discussed earlier, on 7 October, that's where I discussed according to what she wants me to assist her with. It's about the donning of the hijab.

[4430] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 7 October, when she met you after all this thing on 4 October about her repeating the lie, you were aware, you didn't ask her 7 October?

[4431] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Correct.

[4432] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You didn't. Can I now take you to 1 November. You were in Parliament when Ms Khan gave her personal statement about what she said to Parliament in August and October?

[4433] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4434] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You heard what she said. What went through your mind when you heard her say that?

[4435] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm relieved that she came out and tell the truth, yes.

[4436] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you felt that it was the right thing to do?

[4437] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[4438] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That she had lied before and, therefore, was coming clean?

[4439] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, to put the record correct.

[4440] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. On 2 November, we actually have a media statement, but I think you would be familiar, Workers' Party put out a statement saying it was going to form a Disciplinary Panel. You recall? Maybe I place it before you, so that it can refresh your memory as to what was put out by the Party. You have that? [*A media statement was referred to.*]

[4441] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.

[4442] **Mr Desmond Lee:** “The Workers' Party Central Executive Committee has approved the formation of a Disciplinary Panel to look into the admissions made by MP Raeesah Khan in Parliament on 1 November arising from an earlier speech made by the MP in Parliament on 3 August 2021. The panel comprises Sec-Gen Pritam Singh, Chair Sylvia Lim and Vice Chair Faisal Manap. The panel will report its findings and recommendations to the CEC after it completes its work. The work of the Party’s Disciplinary Panel is separate from any decision the Committee of Privileges of Parliament may make. The Workers’ Party Media team.” You were aware of this media release?

[4443] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I am.

[4444] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the Workers' Party Disciplinary Panel was formed on 2 November, right?

[4445] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4446] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the WP CEC's approval to form the DP, was it also on 2 November or 1 November?

[4447] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I was asked by Pritam to be part of this committee on 1 November.

[4448] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 1 November?

[4449] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4450] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What time, do you recall, did he ask you, roughly? Was it an email, was it —

- [4451] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Late morning —
- [4452] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Late morning on 1 November?
- [4453] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, basically I think after Raeesah made the confession, then I think received a WhatsApp from Pritam to say am I willing to be part of this DP.
- [4454] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 1 November?
- [4455] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** After the confession.
- [4456] **Mr Desmond Lee:** After her personal statement in Parliament?
- [4457] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, yes.
- [4458] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you'll be able to provide us with that later?
- [4459] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, sure.
- [4460] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you replied yes?
- [4461] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4462] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you ask him any questions about what the role of this DP was?
- [4463] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4464] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you were aware on 1 November that a DP would be formed on 2 November?
- [4465] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4466] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And reading this media statement, it accords with what you understood your role as a DP member to be?
- [4467] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4468] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And that was to, I quote from the statement: “to look into the admissions made by Ms Raeesah Khan arising from what she said in Parliament and report its findings and recommendations”, am I right?
- [4469] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4470] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, the decision to form the DP was made by the Secretary-General? From your knowledge? Made by Mr Singh?
- [4471] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because he initiated the WhatsApp asking me whether I'm willing to be part of it. So, yes.

[4472] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Were you privy to the message sent to the Workers' Party CEC on the formation of the DP?

[4473] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4474] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Did you know it was Ms Sylvia Lim who wrote that message to the CEC?

[4475] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** What do you mean?

[4476] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Ms Sylvia Lim had asked the CEC for permission to form the DP. Were you aware?

[4477] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think it was Pritam.

[4478] **Mr Desmond Lee:** It was Pritam Singh, is it?

[4479] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4480] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I refer you to a document that Ms Khan had submitted to the Committee of Privileges on 2 December. This is an email from Ms Sylvia Lim, copied to both you and Mr Pritam Singh, and sent to Ms Raeesah Khan, dated 2 November 2021, 6.35 pm. You have that letter in front of you? [*An email was referred to.*]

[4481] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4482] **Mr Desmond Lee:** It's an email letter.

[4483] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4484] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And I quote, it says, "The Disciplinary Panel is tasked to investigate this episode and recommend to the CEC whether there are grounds to take action against you", that is, Ms Khan, "for conduct prejudicial to the welfare of the Party." Do you see that?

[4485] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.

[4486] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you agree that this means that the Disciplinary Panel is supposed to look into the specific circumstances surrounding Ms Khan's untruths in Parliament – August, October – and it was formed officially one day after Ms Khan came clean. So, it was really about what she told Parliament, right? Correct? That's the role of the DP?

[4487] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4488] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the fact that Ms Khan had told Mr Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and you on 8 August, and all the interactions that the Party leadership, that is, the three of you might have, would be relevant in investigating this episode, am I right? So, it means, in investigating this episode, the fact that Ms Khan had told the three of you on 8 August that she had lied in Parliament, was relevant to the findings of the DP?

- [4489] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** So, sorry, again?
- [4490] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you formed a DP, correct?
- [4491] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4492] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And there are three people in the DP?
- [4493] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4494] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Mr Singh, Ms Lim and yourself?
- [4495] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [4496] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And according to the TOR that is set out in that email I showed you, it is to investigate this episode of Ms Khan misleading Parliament on two occasions, correct?
- [4497] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [4498] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And that, therefore, what Ms Khan did, what she was thinking, who she told this to, who she confided in, what instructions she got, what leaders said or did not say after she had confessed internally, these would all be relevant to the Disciplinary Panel's investigation into this episode, would I be correct?
- [4499] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, I need to —
- [4500] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, let me come at it again.
- [4501] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4502] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The DP is supposed to investigate this episode of her lying to Parliament, correct?
- [4503] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [4504] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And part of this episode, it is relevant that she had told you on 8 August that she had lied. I know you told us earlier that you were overwhelmed by other things that she had told you, particularly, her own traumatic experience.
- [4505] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4506] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But the fact that she had told you on 8 August is relevant to this investigation, am I right?
- [4507] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, the DP is to look into what she mentioned in Parliament.
- [4508] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. So, everything relating to her telling of Parliament these falsehoods.

[4509] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, more of the lie that she told in Parliament.

[4510] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, including why she lied, how it came to pass, what advice she got, who she had confessed to internally. Would these not be relevant to the task of the DP?

[4511] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because the DP, as I mentioned again just now, is to look into the part where she lied in Parliament and we are supposed to look into, basically, why — yes, I do understand where you're coming from —

[4512] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Why she lied.

[4513] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — why she lied, yes.

[4514] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, here was a case of “look into this episode”, which means 3 August, 4 October, correct? On 3 August, she said the anecdote in Parliament, false, correct?

[4515] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4516] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 4 October in Parliament, false?

[4517] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, indeed.

[4518] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you need to look into what she said in Parliament, you need to understand why she said those things?

[4519] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4520] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And between 3 August and 4 October, the fact that she had told Party leaders that she had lied, is that not relevant as part of this whole chain?

[4521] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4522] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, correct?

[4523] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry to make you repeat.

[4524] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No, I just wanted to be clear. And the fact that on 4 October that you became aware, as Vice Chairman of the Party, through media sources that she had this exchange with Minister Shanmugam and that you, as Vice Chairman, were aware that she had lied because of 8 August, would that also be relevant to the DP? Would not the CEC want to know that the Party Vice Chairman was aware on 4 October that she had lied again?

[4525] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[4526] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Is it relevant? Yes?

[4527] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think, yes.

[4528] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Because if you, Mr Singh and Ms Lim heard the exchange on 4 October and told her to correct it there and then, that would have made a difference, yes?

[4529] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4530] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you're saying that what Ms Khan told you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim on 8 August is relevant to the job of the DP. You said "yes". You also said what you knew on 4 October, when she had repeated that lie in Parliament, is relevant to the finding of the DP. Relevant. The DP ought to find out about these things. The DP ought to present all these to the CEC. Yes?

[4531] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not so — I need to be clearer on that. Because, as I mentioned, the DP is to look into the lie that she mentioned.

[4532] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, so the lie, the actual lie and the circumstances around it, right?

[4533] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, then we need to investigate by calling her up. As a DP, we need to present what she presented to us to the CEC.

[4534] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What she send to you formally as a DP, correct?

[4535] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4536] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And, basically, what you're trying to do as a DP is, okay, you're tasked by the CEC. The task is to investigate this episode, which is the two acts of misleading Parliament?

[4537] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4538] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you just said just now – and it's in the transcript – the fact that she had told Party leaders on 8 August that she had lied and, according to you, no further action or the direction was given to her, is relevant to the DP. The DP ought to put this in the report?

[4539] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, the time when we did the interview with her, we did not bring up that issue. We were not looking at the point of what happened in terms of from the 8th, also plus on the 6th and all that. Because we were looking on the confession that she made on 1 November and to refer back to the lie she said on 3 August —

[4540] **Mr Desmond Lee:** August?

[4541] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — and on 4 October, yes.

[4542] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you were looking into the specific mistruths she said in Parliament?

[4543] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4544] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But the fact that a few days after she had said that mistruth on 3 August, she had then on 8 August confessed to Party leadership – Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General – that she had lied?

[4545] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4546] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That is relevant. It means that she lied in August but she confessed to Party leaders on 8 August?

[4547] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Relevant to?

[4548] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Relevant to the findings of the DP. Is it not relevant for the DP to look into what she had told Party leaders after the lie?

[4549] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned just now, what had transacted in the DP interview with her, that part of the – on the 8th, we didn't discuss.

[4550] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you said that 8 August, she had told you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim —

[4551] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[4552] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — that she had lied to Parliament?

[4553] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4554] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, whatever you may have said, whatever you may have not said, whatever you have thought, didn't think, do, didn't do, when you're now part of the DP, you're now tasked to investigate her for lying, is it not relevant that she had, in fact, according to you, confessed or told Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General on 8 August that, “A few days ago, I told a mistruth”?

[4555] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I'm not so sure what you mean by “relevant”. I'm sorry, “relevant” means relevant to what?

[4556] **Mr Desmond Lee:** To the DP's job. So, remember the DP's job, Ms Sylvia Lim's email, maybe you look back at that, to investigate this episode and make recommendations to the CEC about what actions should be taken against Ms Khan for misleading Parliament on two occasions, correct?

[4557] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4558] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And so, you need, obviously, to look at the two episodes, 3 August and 4 October, correct?

[4559] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, that's what we are investigating.

[4560] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That's right. So, Ms Khan's motivation for lying, is it relevant? Why she said that lie, is it relevant? Yes, right?

- [4561] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Motivation?
- [4562] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Why did she tell that falsehood. Is it relevant? Her mindset, is she doing it out of anger, out of spite? Was it carelessness? Is that not relevant to —
- [4563] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In terms of the reason for her to basically —
- [4564] **Mr Desmond Lee:** To tell the mistruth to Parliament.
- [4565] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Thank you, correct. Yes.
- [4566] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, it's relevant?
- [4567] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4568] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The fact that she confesses to Party leaders shortly after lying, is relevant, yes?
- [4569] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Confessed that she didn't tell the truth.
- [4570] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That she had said, in August.
- [4571] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4572] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The fact that whatever you all thought, on 8 August, you say that Mr Singh, Ms Lim and you, despite knowing that she had already lied a few days earlier in August, you didn't do anything about it. Is that not relevant for the CEC to know that she had told Party leaders, "I already lied", and nothing was done from your perspective? Is it not relevant to tell the CEC, you know —
- [4573] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** To be honest, when the DP was formed, that was not on my mind.
- [4574] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Correct. But your DP's role is to investigate and recommend what actions should be taken against Ms Khan.
- [4575] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, yes, but the DP investigation starting from 2 November is to investigate in terms of interviewing Raeesah. So, whatever the findings of the investigation, starting from 2 November, that would be taken into consideration of the report the DP has to present to CEC.
- [4576] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That's right.
- [4577] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4578] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, your CEC is waiting for a report from DP, an independent report —
- [4579] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4580] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — to explain or assess what Ms Khan did and to recommend the level of her responsibility, correct?

[4581] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct. Based on the interview that we will have with Ms Khan.

[4582] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

[4583] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4584] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you've got to interview her to understand her explanation.

[4585] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4586] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Also, am I correct you sent an email to all Workers' Party members to say anyone who has anything to say about this, please step forward, correct?

[4587] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4588] **Mr Desmond Lee:** They could write in, they could appear before the DP, correct?

[4589] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4590] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you just wanted to have a chance for everyone to have a say on this matter, right?

[4591] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. The investigation starts on 2 November, after the formation. So, we do not look at what has transacted in the past because, let's say, if Raeesah were to bring up the issue that she confessed to us during the interview and whatever is being mentioned to Yudhish and Ms Loh that we ask her to take the matter to the grave, it should be told to the DP the first time that we met her which was on 8 November, if I am not mistaken, 8 November. So, the investigation and the information that we are going to present to CEC, comments from what we gathered on 2 November, up to when we finished the investigation, and that is the information that is going to be presented to the CEC.

[4592] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you did present a report to the CEC?

[4593] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, we did present.

[4594] **Mr Desmond Lee:** A written report.

[4595] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We flashed it up; it was a PowerPoint.

[4596] **Mr Desmond Lee:** It was a PowerPoint slide. So, there is actually a formal presentation?

[4597] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4598] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On what day was that presentation? Was it 29 October? Was it earlier? Sorry, should be November.

[4599] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** November. I think the press conference was on 2 December, right?

[4600] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 2 December, press conference. But 2 November was your DP.

[4601] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. So, the investigation, I think we finished on 29 November. If I'm not mistaken, on 30 November, we presented it to the CEC. Yes.

[4602] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 30 November was the day on which the DP presented its report on a PowerPoint slide, or a set of slides, to the CEC?

[4603] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4604] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the CEC, looking at your findings, decided that either Ms Khan resign or she be expelled from the Party?

[4605] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's what we recommend. We recommend that CEC to consider asking her to resign, failing doing so, expulsion.

[4606] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Could you provide us with a copy of the recommendation of the DP?

[4607] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can.

[4608] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I just bring you back to before the DP was formed, and this was 29 October. 29 October, you said you went together with the rest of the CEC, and Ms Khan read to you all what she was going to say in Parliament a few days later on 1 November?

[4609] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4610] **Mr Desmond Lee:** At that meeting, did you, Mr Singh or Ms Lim tell the rest of the CEC what you knew about Ms Khan's falsehoods which she had told you about on 8 August?

[4611] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4612] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you all didn't tell the CEC about —

[4613] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, it's a session where she read out —

[4614] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Her statement.

[4615] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — her statement and, basically, for the CEC to know about what she's going to say on 1 November.

[4616] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, am I right to say that on 2 November when the DP was formally established, other than Mr Singh, Ms Lim and yourself, the rest of the CEC did not

know that Ms Khan had confessed to the three of you on 8 August that she had misled Parliament on 3 August?

[4617] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4618] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Unaware?

[4619] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Unaware.

[4620] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And am I also right to say that on 2 November, the CEC, barring the three of you, was unaware that when Ms Khan repeated the falsehood on 4 October in Parliament again, in response to Mr Shanmugam's questions —

[4621] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Meaning the CEC was unaware?

[4622] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The CEC was unaware that on 4 October, when Ms Khan repeated the falsehoods in Parliament, that Mr Singh, Ms Lim and you were actually aware that she was lying again? The CEC was unaware —

[4623] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** CEC was unaware.

[4624] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The three of you were sitting there in Parliament, aware that she had lied again.

[4625] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4626] **Mr Desmond Lee:** CEC was not told?

[4627] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Was not told.

[4628] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Are these two facts – 8 August, 4 October – were they in the DP's report to the CEC?

[4629] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 8 August and —

[4630] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 8 August when she was at Pritam Singh's house, she had confessed.

[4631] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And 4 October? No, no. Because I mentioned that whatever was being reported or being told to the CEC is based on the DP's investigations, started from, our first session was on 8 November until 29 November.

[4632] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Sorry, 2 November?

[4633] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, no, no, 8 November, we started our first session.

[4634] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Oh, you started your first meeting.

[4635] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And we met up with Ms Khan.

- [4636] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.
- [4637] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The whole session lasted until 29 November.
- [4638] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, 8 November to 29 November were the DP's hearings?
- [4639] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4640] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then 30 November, you presented?
- [4641] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4642] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, am I right to say that from 8 to 29 November, you were inquiring into what had happened in the past, in August, in October, because the facts of her lie were in August and October?
- [4643] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, the interview we had with Raeesah, we asked her why — I don't know whether you have the response Raeesah actually wrote to us.
- [4644] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.
- [4645] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. So, the focus of the meeting is to address what was her reply. We go through her reply, of which I believe that she mentioned that she received treatment and then she also mentioned about she has a religious trauma. So, we are focusing on that, on 1 November – sorry, on 8 November when we first met her for the DP interview.
- [4646] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, am I right to say that the DP only based its findings on: number one, Ms Khan's representations to the DP —
- [4647] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [4648] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — her letter, her interview with you all; number two, whatever the Members of the Workers' Party told you all?
- [4649] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4650] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Those were the only two things you based your DP report on? Yes?
- [4651] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4652] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And what you're saying is that since Ms Khan didn't mention 8 August meeting at Mr Singh's house to the DP, that, therefore, that did not feature in the DP's findings?
- [4653] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Because the DP started to investigate from 8 November.

[4654] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But would I not be correct to say — let's look at it this way, two scenarios: Ms Khan misleads Parliament on 3 August, full stop; versus scenario B, Ms Khan misleads Parliament on 3 August, but then confesses to the three Party leaders on 8 August. Two scenarios.

[4655] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[4656] **Mr Desmond Lee:** One, you just know that she lied on 3 August to Parliament. Second scenario, you know that she lied to Parliament on 3 August and then confessed to Party leadership on 8 August.

[4657] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[4658] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Would you agree that the two scenarios are different, factually different?

[4659] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, one is there is a confession.

[4660] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And one without?

[4661] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Without, yes.

[4662] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Would you agree that in the second scenario, when you know that she had confessed to Party leadership, that fact is relevant to her level of responsibility? That means one where she just lied and full stop; versus lie and then a few days later, come clean to the Party leaders and Party elders. Am I right? It affects her level of responsibility?

[4663] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4664] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the DP's role is to investigate this episode and recommend to CEC the level of Ms Khan's responsibility and the penalty she should face, correct? That is the DP's role?

[4665] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, the DP's role, as you can see in the email, is about her — I mean, I'll just read to you again, I think, if you want me to read what was written on the email?

[4666] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Ms Lim's email?

[4667] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, Ms Lim's email.

[4668] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I have it here.

[4669] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. So, the task of a Disciplinary Panel is to investigate this episode and recommend to CEC whether there are grounds to take action against Ms Khan for conduct prejudicial to the welfare of the Party, in accordance with Article 20 of the WP's constitution. Again, I'd like to reiterate that DP starts its investigation on 8 November, which is the first interview. So, again, I want to say that what is being presented to us from 8 to 29 November, from Ms Raeesah plus others who attended, the attendees, that we

summarised and we made a recommendation to the CEC to decide. So, that's the role of the DP.

[4670] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Which means you say that the DP only forms its basis for recommendation based on what is told to the DP from 8 November to 29 November?

[4671] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4672] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And whatever is not told to the DP is not considered?

[4673] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[4674] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But you see, Mr Faisal, you are Vice Chairman of the Workers' Party.

[4675] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[4676] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And although it is not placed before the DP formally when it sat, that you were personally aware that she had confessed to you and other Party leaders on 8 August, did it not occur to you that this is actually very relevant to the level of Ms Khan's responsibility in this whole episode of lying to Parliament? Did it occur to you, yes or no?

[4677] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, because as I mentioned that the DP role, I understand, I mean, as mentioned here, they are two different separate issues.

[4678] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, Mr Pritam Singh and Ms Sylvia Lim didn't discuss with you whether the DP members should tell the CEC about what you knew on 8 August? Was there a communication about that?

[4679] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned to you earlier, the DP's role is to investigate and to present —

[4680] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I know. What I'm asking is, when the DP was formed and it sat, did Mr Singh discuss with you whether —

[4681] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4682] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — the 8 August meeting and what Ms Khan told you all should be part of the DP's report to CEC?

[4683] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, there wasn't any discussion.

[4684] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And, likewise, Ms Lim didn't discuss with you about whether it is necessary to put in?

[4685] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4686] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Likewise, both of them didn't discuss with you during the DP's pendency, when it sat, that what the three of you knew on 4 October that Ms Khan had lied again, and you were the only three MPs, other than Ms Khan, in Parliament that day who knew

she had lied again in Parliament, you all didn't discuss that this was relevant to the DP's report to CEC?

[4687] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We didn't discuss. No discussion.

[4688] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And yourself didn't think it was relevant because, as you said just now, DP only confines its findings to what is presented from 8 to 29 November?

[4689] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4690] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, never mind what happened in the past, as long as it is not presented to the DP, it is not for you to consider?

[4691] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, the DP's role is to investigate.

[4692] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I know. You didn't think it was necessary to disclose your personal knowledge on 8 August and 4 October to the Workers' Party cadres and members who were invited to give representations?

[4693] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4694] **Mr Desmond Lee:** But just put yourself in their shoes, Mr Faisal, these are Workers' Party cadres.

[4695] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand.

[4696] **Mr Desmond Lee:** If they knew what you knew, that this young MP had misled Parliament, but a few days later had confessed to Party leaders many years her senior, would it be relevant for Workers' Party cadres who write in to share with DP their view on how responsible Ms Khan is?

[4697] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but that's not the role of the DP at that point in time.

[4698] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No, I'm just asking you is it relevant for the cadres to know.

[4699] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As part of the DP, I don't find it relevant to bring it up during the discussion because that's not the role of the DP.

[4700] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, you're saying that when Workers' Party cadres are invited to share with the DP about their views on the episode and Ms Khan's level of blame, that they do not need to know that she had confessed to Workers' Party leadership on 8 August, a few days later?

[4701] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** This, I —

[4702] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Because I brought you through the scenarios, right? Scenario A —

[4703] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand.

[4704] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — the cadres only know that she had lied. Scenario B, the cadres know that she had lied, but that she had confessed and come clean to the Party leaders. Would the cadres think differently in the two situations, an objective cadre?

[4705] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Minister, what you mentioned, the scenario given to me is a hypothetical one.

[4706] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Why is it hypothetical, Mr Faisal?

[4707] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because it didn't happen.

[4708] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What didn't happen? Because you didn't tell the cadres, am I right?

[4709] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, the thing is that, we discussed what we needed to discuss. If there's any cadre who asked me about this kind of thing, then I can say yes or no, whether I tell them the truth, I mean, share with them further information. But, again, during this session, basically, the focus is to ask Raeesah and the rest of the members – I think we not only open to cadres, we open to members actually – so, to ask them what is their point of view of what had happened based on the incident that had happened on 3 August, which is Raeesah did not say the truth in Parliament.

[4710] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I understand your position, Mr Faisal. I just wanted to understand what is the purpose of the DP asking Workers' Party cadres to write in to the DP? What is the purpose?

[4711] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** For their views.

[4712] **Mr Desmond Lee:** For their views on what?

[4713] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On the issue that —

[4714] **Mr Desmond Lee:** What were you hoping that they will tell you, about whether they knew anything about Ms Khan's —

[4715] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We're open to hear anything that they want to say.

[4716] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Including their views on the level of penalties Ms Khan should face, correct?

[4717] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4718] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Including that?

[4719] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. That is the purpose of the formation of the DP, that we need to make a recommendation to the CEC on the punishment.

[4720] **Mr Desmond Lee:** There was a message, Mr Faisal, from the Workers' Party to all its cadres and members about the DP, am I right?

[4721] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4722] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you remember what that message said, roughly?

[4723] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's in the SMS.

[4724] **Mr Desmond Lee:** We can find it. Let's just put it this way. I have it here, I'm not sure whether the Secretariat will have it, Ms Loh Pei Ying's submission of WhatsApp messages. And this is the 10 November 2021 invitation by the Workers' Party to all members to provide their views to the Disciplinary Panel. [*A message was referred to.*]

[4725] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sure.

[4726] **Mr Desmond Lee:** It says, "Dear Members, the Disciplinary Panel is looking into MP Raeesah Khan's admissions and invites members' views. If you wish to meet the Panel, please email" a certain person in the Party "so that arrangements can be made. Thank you." You see that?

[4727] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4728] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, this is the only thing that Workers' Party members and cadres received about Ms Khan's admission to Parliament that she had misled Parliament, correct?

[4729] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4730] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And a lot of these members would be people who would not know about what happened on 8 August?

[4731] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4732] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And so, some of them would write in, am I not right, to say that Ms Khan is responsible, she should be punished and this is what their view is, she should be punished by this, this, this, A, B or C —

[4733] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4734] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — based on what they know from the public realm and from what you tell them, correct? And what you tell them is really just this message and the Facebook post by the Workers' Party. Am I right?

[4735] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Facebook post on?

[4736] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On Ms Khan's confession on 1 November.

[4737] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, okay.

[4738] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Secretary-General on 1 November had put up a Facebook post saying that she should not have lied, correct?

[4739] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4740] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, I described earlier that if your members generally only know what they know from the public realm, Scenario A, if they only know that she had misled Parliament; versus, Scenario B, they know that she had not only misled Parliament, but that she had confessed a few days later to the Workers' Party leadership. Do you agree that the two are different?

[4741] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do agree the two are different.

[4742] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And would you agree that, therefore, their views on Ms Khan's responsibility are different, the weight is different?

[4743] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In general, yes.

[4744] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

[4745] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In general.

[4746] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, hence, would it not be relevant to tell the membership at large, including the CEC that mandated that you formed the DP, that you were aware that she had confessed to you?

[4747] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4748] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, it was not relevant?

[4749] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not relevant.

[4750] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Okay, thank you. You recall that Ms Loh Pei Ying and Mr Yudhishtira Nathan had both appeared together in front of the DP while you all sat?

[4751] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4752] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I mean, there's a date and I have the transcript, but I think you remember clearly that they were there?

[4753] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4754] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Were there many people who appeared before you all to give oral evidence?

[4755] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** "Many" means?

[4756] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Were there a lot of people who asked to meet you all face to face?

- [4757] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. We had a number.
- [4758] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Quite a number? But you remember Ms Loh Pei Ying and Mr Yudhishthra Nathan clearly.
- [4759] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.
- [4760] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you recall them asking the DP to make clear your level of knowledge, that is, what Ms Khan had told you all about her lie?
- [4761] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, she didn't say it directly. And most of the time when Pei Ying was saying, she was directing it to Pritam, in terms of the sitting, she was talking to Pritam. Yes.
- [4762] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, thank you. [*Interruption.*] One minute, just wait for them to reset the system. Give them awhile. Do you want some water?
- [4763] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4764] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Sorry for the delay.
- [4765] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No worries.
- [4766] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I just take you to page 101 of the transcript of 2 December, Ms Khan's testimony before this Committee.
- [4767] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Page 100 and?
- [4768] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Page 101. Somewhere in the second half. You see Mr Edwin Tong says: "The announcement of the formation of a Disciplinary Panel, a DP, you said earlier surprised you."
- [4769] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry?
- [4770] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Somewhere in the second half. Page 101.
- [4771] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Page 101, okay.
- [4772] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you have it?
- [4773] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm on the page.
- [4774] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Slightly lower. Move your pencil lower. Mr Edwin Tong: "And you would also remember that a day later there was another statement that was issued. I think it's in the same file." Do you see that?
- [4775] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.

[4776] **Mr Desmond Lee:** “I'm not sure you would have seen it, given your answers earlier, so I would like you to have a look at it”. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1760.*]

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: The announcement of the formation of a Disciplinary Panel, a DP, you said earlier surprised you. Can you describe your sense when you first found out about this?

Ms Raeesah Khan: I was shocked, and I think that was my first reaction, that I was just shocked and surprised.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Why were you shocked and surprised?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Because it had not been discussed with me previously.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Were you surprised that the panel would comprise Mr Pritam Singh, Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Faisal Manap?

Ms Raeesah Khan: No, because they're the leaders of the Workers' Party.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: Did you ask yourself, and you can share your thoughts with us, what enquiry would take place by these three, when these three already were people you confided in much earlier? Did that cross your mind?

Ms Raeesah Khan: Yes, that crossed my mind, but I assumed that they would be doing an in-depth investigation into how the other members of the Workers' Party would feel.

[4777] So, that is one. That is Ms Khan's reaction. I said earlier, right at the start, that she had also told Ms Loh and Mr Yudhishthra Nathan that she felt you would not betray her. You remember that?

[4778] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, you did mention it.

[4779] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Can I turn to page 49 of that same transcript, and this is Ms Loh Pei Ying's evidence about the DP. Right at the top. Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: “It's not just a major conflict of interest, for which I agree with you in the first place, given now what we know they knew.”, which means what Ms Khan had confided in you on, in terms of her lie. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 854.*]

Ms Loh Pei Ying: Mm.

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: But it's also self-serving in that, does it not seek to, as I have said earlier, draw a line between the Workers' Party and Ms Khan —

Ms Loh Pei Ying: Yes.

[4780] In essence, Ms Loh is just surprised that the three of you, whom Ms Khan had confessed about the lie, were actually members of the DP, supposed to investigate her, even though you were aware that she had confessed to you. And Mr Yudhishthra Nathan, page 46 of the 3 December's transcript, which is the other deck. If you look at the front, it says “3 December”, page 46. 3 December, as opposed to 2 December. You are looking at 2 December.

[4781] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Page 46, is it?

[4782] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Page 46. Mr Tong says: “I think that’s the heart of the matter that I’m getting to, Mr Nathan”. Do you see that? Somewhere near the bottom here, somewhere here. Can you see that? “I think that's the heart of the matter”.

[4783] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, yes.

[4784] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Maybe you go further up. Mr Edwin Tong: “And, in many ways, not dissimilar to what this tribunal or this panel or this Committee here is doing, if Ms Khan had acted on her own volition” —

[4785] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** So sorry, I lost it.

[4786] **Mr Desmond Lee:** This one.

[4787] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Further up, one point up?

[4788] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, just one paragraph up. Basically, the start of his statement.

[4789] Mr Tong said: “And, in many ways, not dissimilar to what this tribunal or this panel or this Committee here is doing, if Ms Khan had acted on her own volition, suppressed information, kept it away from anybody else, on a frolic of her own, that’s one state of mind.” You understand what he is saying? That means she is just lying and she kept it to herself. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 3 December 2021, from Para No 3070.*]

Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai: It would be a very different state of mind if one made a mistake, consulted with senior Party leaders, owned up to it in a full and frank fashion, sought advice and counsel, got that advice and counsel, acted in a manner completely consistent with that counsel, and then be subject to an inquiry by that very same people who had given her advice.

I think that’s the heart of the matter that I’m getting to, Mr Nathan, and I think you understand what I’m saying. That, I think, creates, in your words, an uninformed, a biased, and I would say, completely jaundiced; and I would add further, I would say self-serving Disciplinary Panel by the Workers’ Party. Would you agree?

Mr Yudhishtra Nathan: I think that in the context of everything that did transpire and did occur, it does pain me to say this but I would agree.

[4790] Look at Mr Nathan’s reply. Do you see that?

[4791] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4792] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do you agree with the three characterisations of your involvement as a member of the DP?

[4793] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I disagree because, at the end of the day, when we met Yudhish and Ms Loh as part of the DP interview, they did mention that they are glad that the DP is being formed.

[4794] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes.

[4795] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Alright. So, here they mention that they are surprised by me, Pritam and Sylvia being involved in the DP. Why didn't they mention?

Because I mentioned just now the anger, the point that Ms Pei Ying made earlier on, I mentioned to you that it was directed to Pritam. It means that she was in a state of anger.

[4796] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Anger at what?

[4797] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't know, but when she shared the point, she was angry, she was looking at Pritam, so basically that they should have come out with all this openly, and the three of us there, and say that they are against the formation of DP, having the three of us in the DP. But it didn't take place. And here they are saying that they disagree. And they voice out their resentment that the DP consists of the three of us.

[4798] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes, I understand your position, where you're coming from. But can I just put it to you and you tell me whether you disagree or agree. You are aware of Ms Khan's lie on 3 August because she told you on 8 August?

[4799] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4800] **Mr Desmond Lee:** On 4 October, when she lied in Parliament again, you were one of a few people who knew, correct? One of a few people who knew?

[4801] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4802] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And then later on you become part of the Disciplinary Panel —

[4803] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4804] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — to investigate why Ms Khan lied, why she lied, and to assign the level of blameworthiness on her, correct? You are part of that Panel?

[4805] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm part of the Panel.

[4806] **Mr Desmond Lee:** I asked you just now and you said that you did not think it is your responsibility, as a member of the Panel, to disclose to the CEC that appointed you, what you knew on 8 August and 4 October, it is not your responsibility.

[4807] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As part of the DP?

[4808] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. No, right?

[4809] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because that's not the —

[4810] **Mr Desmond Lee:** No, but I'm asking you. You do not think it is your responsibility to tell the CEC —

[4811] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Being part of the DP.

[4812] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You're part of the DP.

[4813] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4814] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That you need to tell the CEC that, “Wait a minute, I know because Ms Khan told me,” according to you, “on 8 August”?

[4815] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4816] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Do not think it's your responsibility to tell the CEC?

[4817] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Because the DP is focused on investigation that need to be done from 2 to 29 November. That's the focus.

[4818] **Mr Desmond Lee:** 8 to 29 November?

[4819] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We were formed on 2 November, but of course, the first interview was on 8 November.

[4820] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And you did not think, as a member of the DP, knowing what you knew on 8 August and 4 October, that you should have told all the Workers' Party cadres when you invited them and the members of the Workers' Party to comment on this episode, it was not – you didn't feel it was necessary?

[4821] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. To me, in general, I felt that the DP is moving ahead of what need to be discussed, what being told to us on, again, starting from 8 November to 29 November.

[4822] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And when the DP, which included you, submitted its recommendations to the CEC, and you say this was on 30 November. Am I right?

[4823] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, 30 November.

[4824] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That when you presented the recommendations and the findings —

[4825] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, 30 November, correct.

[4826] **Mr Desmond Lee:** — it was not relevant, in your mind, to disclose what you said happened on 8 August and your knowledge on 4 October. It was not necessary?

[4827] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because we only present what transacted or what we gathered from 8 to 29 November.

[4828] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, am I right to say that the Workers' Party CEC only knew of what Ms Khan had told you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim on the 2 December, Press Conference? Am I right?

[4829] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again?

[4830] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Am I right to say that the Workers' Party CEC only knew of what you know – that means the 8 August, you say that Ms Khan had confessed that she had lied in August – that this fact was only known to the Workers' Party CEC on 2 December?

[4831] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think Pritam did mention that in the Press Conference, right?

[4832] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Yes. So, that's the first time when the Secretary-General of the Workers' Party tells the whole of Singapore and the media that the three of you knew about Ms Khan's lie as early as August?

[4833] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4834] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The CEC, in fact, the whole Singapore only knew on 2 December?

[4835] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4836] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Thank you, I have no further questions for the moment, Mr Chairman.

[4837] **The Chairman:** Can I just build on some of the points that Minister Desmond asked. And I think he did ask you this: you did not discuss this issue of yourself, Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Pritam Singh knowing of the truth on 8 August, when you formed the DP? You did not discuss this issue at all amongst yourself, whether is it relevant or not relevant to the DP?

[4838] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The details about the —

[4839] **The Chairman:** The fact that it was disclosed to you, the three of you, on 8 August?

[4840] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4841] **The Chairman:** None of you discussed this at all?

[4842] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't recall.

[4843] **The Chairman:** So, you said that it was, in your view, not relevant, and would it be correct to say that, in the view of Ms Sylvia Lim and Mr Pritam Singh it was also irrelevant to —

[4844] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't say something on their behalf.

[4845] **The Chairman:** But this was not discussed amongst the three of you as a Disciplinary Panel?

[4846] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not discussed.

[4847] **The Chairman:** And you kept mentioning that in your capacity as a member on the Disciplinary Panel, this was not relevant. But if I were to ask you in your capacity as the Vice Chairman of the Workers' Party, as a seasoned politician, would this fact be relevant to the CEC and to the rest of your cadres, to be made known?

[4848] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not that —

[4849] **The Chairman:** That you actually knew quite some time ago and that Ms Khan had actually confessed quite early on. In your view, it's not relevant and not important?

[4850] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Again, the discussion like we had earlier was on the DP.

[4851] **The Chairman:** I understand. I'm not asking in the context of the DP. I'm asking you, as a leader in your Party, you don't feel that this issue that she confessed to all of you was actually not very important for the rest of the people to know?

[4852] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because, Chairman, why I do not want to disclose and why I kind of like not to get involved from 8 August to the formation of the DP, is because it's a very sensitive issue, of which I want Pritam, who knows Raeesah very well, to be the only person, or maybe him and Sylvia, but my point is that Pritam needs to do what he needs to do because he's very close to Raeesah. So, I leave the matter to Pritam, right? So, I believe that as long as Raeesah doesn't want to come forward to confess, I shouldn't be jumping the gun or to share with people the confidential information that we have. So, that's the state of mind that I have throughout this particular episode, yes.

[4853] **The Chairman:** So, if this point was not relevant, why was it surfaced on the 2 December Press Conference?

[4854] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That one, you have to ask Mr Pritam, because he did the Press Conference and he mentioned it in the Press Conference. It's coming from him.

[4855] **The Chairman:** I see. Minister Edwin Tong, any questions?

[4856] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Manap, I just want to check whether —

[4857] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, Minister Edwin, I prefer to be called by my name, Faisal Manap. Thank you, Mr Edwin.

[4858] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, would you like to take a break or carry on?

[4859] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I would appreciate that. I would like to take a break.

[4860] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Then, I will ask Mr Chairman for permission to take a short break.

[4861] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Thank you.

[4862] **The Chairman:** Let's take a 10-minute break. It's now 1.50 pm. Let's adjourn briefly and come back here at about 2.00 pm. Let's make it about 15 minutes, so 2.05 pm.

[4863] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Thank you.

[4864] **The Chairman:** We'll adjourn till 2.05 pm.

(The hearing adjourned at 1.51 pm and resumed at 2.05 pm.)

[4865] **The Chairman:** Mr Edwin Tong.

[4866] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Good afternoon, Mr Manap; no, Mr Faisal. I beg your pardon, I'm so sorry. It's a bit of an instinct.

[4867] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No worries.

[4868] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, at the start of these proceedings, you walked in with a prepared note which you said you have now placed on your left side.

[4869] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4870] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Who prepared this with you?

[4871] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's all mine. Basically, just to remind me the sequence of what happened.

[4872] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And this was prepared using what documents as a reminder for yourself?

[4873] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry?

[4874] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What other documents did you look at to prepare this note?

[4875] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, this is the sequence, and I brought a few others.

[4876] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which you had used to help you prepare this note?

[4877] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, no, no, there are separate documents.

[4878] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, you have a note, and then you have several other documents. Are these —

[4879] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** These are basically the DP's notes that I took down, for what transacted between us and Raeesah.

[4880] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right.

[4881] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And because it was handwritten, so I make it into a typed format.

[4882] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.

[4883] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And this is basically the sequence, just to remind me.

[4884] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, there are two sets of documents there. One is a sequence of events which you've prepared and another one is a typed-out version of the notes that you took at the DP hearing, correct?

[4885] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4886] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In preparing the sequence of events, did you look at other materials to help you to remember, help you to reconstruct the events?

[4887] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4888] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No. Did you consult with anyone?

[4889] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4890] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you discuss this note with anyone else?

[4891] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** "Discuss" meaning like —

[4892] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Speak to, discuss, talk about.

[4893] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, just to verify whether I got the dates right.

[4894] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** One step at a time. First of all, let's not speak over each other, because otherwise the transcribers will have difficulty trying to transcribe. And I want to make sure that it is accurate. First of all, did you discuss this note with anyone else?

[4895] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I did ask whether I got the dates correct.

[4896] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[4897] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Just the dates.

[4898] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Who did you discuss it with?

[4899] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think it should be maybe Pritam and Sylvia, most probably.

[4900] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Pritam and Sylvia?

[4901] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4902] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you discussed with Pritam and Sylvia this prepared note —

[4903] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because of the sequence, whether I got the sequence right.

[4904] **Mr Edwin Tong Chu Fai:** Did they give you any comments?

[4905] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[4906] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you discussed it with them, did they tell you you're right, you're wrong? Suggest other dates?

[4907] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** They basically stated the date, whether it is right or wrong.

[4908] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What else did they say?

[4909] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Nothing.

[4910] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How was it discussed with them?

[4911] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I told them, this is basically what I recall, on this date. Most of the check that I did was on the dates.

[4912] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How was it discussed with them? Was it in person or by email?

[4913] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think in person.

[4914] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When was this?

[4915] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I drafted this about maybe one or two days ago, just to ensure that I can recall.

[4916] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** One or two days ago. So, you would have met them in the last one or two days, correct?

[4917] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4918] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, which date is it?

[4919] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In the last two days, like one of the two days.

[4920] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Which day?

[4921] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Maybe yesterday, I met them yesterday and the day before.

[4922] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you met them yesterday and the day before?

[4923] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

- [4924] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How long was this meeting?
- [4925] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not so long, basically.
- [4926] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you give me an idea? Three hours?
- [4927] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Two to three hours.
- [4928] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On each day, it was two to three hours.
- [4929] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [4930] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you have other documents with you at this meeting?
- [4931] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [4932] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You had no other pieces of paper with you?
- [4933] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do have, basically, the content that we presented to the CEC, the finding of the DP and the so-called fuller version of my notes that I took down from DP.
- [4934] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did they bring any other documents with them for this meeting?
- [4935] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, can I know what's the relevance of you asking me this?
- [4936] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm trying to understand the note —
- [4937] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I mentioned to you I did this on my own.
- [4938] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, you say you did it on your own, but you said you also consulted with Pritam and —
- [4939] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, in terms of the dates, yes.
- [4940] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, I want to know whether or not you have discussed it to the extent —
- [4941] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But how is this relevant to the point that we are talking about Raeesah's – what are you trying to imply? Can you tell me directly?
- [4942] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm trying to fact-find. So, I'm not trying to imply anything, Mr Faisal.
- [4943] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The fact-find is for?

[4944] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm trying to understand the entire circumstance which surrounds the inquiries that we are asked to look into as the Committee —

[4945] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But how does my meeting, sorry, I have to add in. Because I don't understand and I just don't get the point, why there is a need to discuss on this issue whereas, as I mentioned just now, I kind of like met them to basically discuss about the issue, yes. When I came out with this note, you asked me, what is the note for? For me to recall, and I checked with them, basically, the dates, whether it is right or wrong, whether I've got the dates right or wrong.

[4946] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What else? What else did you discuss with them?

[4947] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, try to recall whether what I recall is correct. The three of us are basically being looked into in terms of this case, right? I also need to know whether I refresh my mind correctly or not, okay?

[4948] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, the three of you are not being looked into. Ms Raeesah Khan is the subject of this inquiry.

[4949] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's why I said I don't understand why, Mr Edwin, are you asking about what transacted, what happened between the three of us whereas the discussion is now focusing on Ms Raeesah. And I've already answered to you the purpose of me having these notes.

[4950] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, and I appreciate that very much. What I'm trying to understand is whether there are other documents which exist. As you know, Mr Desmond Lee —

[4951] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But how is it relevant to the point that we are talking about? Ms Raeesah?

[4952] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Perhaps we have some rules here. I think it's very difficult for the transcribers to record accurately what you say and what I say if we both speak over each other, so —

[4953] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do understand that, Mr Edwin, but I do need to focus on the issue.

[4954] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, I would appreciate if we don't interrupt each other and don't speak over. Because if I ask the question, it's not possible for the transcribers to record it if you speak over me.

[4955] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, I'm sorry about that.

[4956] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I hope you understand that.

[4957] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[4958] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the relevance is we are trying to understand if there are relevant documents which exist which we haven't seen, which as you know, Mr

Desmond Lee had been asking you for: documents, emails, reports and so on. And I'm trying to explore whether there are such documents which exist. And your point about asking me about the relevance of the question, it is not for you to ask me or tell me what to ask. If it is not relevant, Mr Chairman will stop me. So, let's go on these rules. Okay?

[4959] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Should I direct that question to Mr Chairman instead in future?

[4960] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You may if you like and Mr Chairman will decide.

[4961] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Thank you.

[4962] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But let me just carry on now.

[4963] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, sure.

[4964] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, at this meeting which took place yesterday and the day before, two to three hours each, were there other documents which Mr Pritam Singh and Ms Lim – did they bring along any other documents to this meeting?

[4965] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, Mr Pritam and Ms Sylvia will be called up later on. I believe you can ask them that, about this. I don't intend to answer that. That's my stand for now.

[4966] **The Chairman:** Mr Faisal Manap, you have been called here before the Committee of Privileges to assist us in investigations so that we can understand the full circumstances behind what has developed.

[4967] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[4968] **The Chairman:** And these are fair questions to ask because you were all part of the discussions. We are trying to understand whether are there other documents, whether are there other facts that we may not be aware of that would shed more light. So, whatever you're able to reveal, we will ask the questions of them too, but we would ask the questions of you, and to be able to answer as much as you are able to. So, thank you very much.

[4969] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I had mentioned, the document I had brought – I already mentioned what's the document I had brought.

[4970] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But that wasn't my question. My question was: what documents did Mr Singh and Ms Lim bring to these two meetings yesterday and the day before which took place over two to three hours each?

[4971] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not going to answer that question. That's my stand.

[4972] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me repeat the question. What documents did Mr Singh and Ms Lim bring along to this meeting yesterday and the day before?

[4973] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not answering that question.

[4974] **The Chairman:** Mr Faisal Manap, may I understand why are you declining to respond to that question?

[4975] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because, firstly, as I mentioned just now, Ms Sylvia and Mr Pritam will be here to answer that question and I may recall it wrongly of the document. I'm only comfortable with what I feel I can recall correctly about what I've brought to the meeting.

[4976] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see, Mr Faisal —

[4977] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** So, I don't want to give an untruth or something which deviated from the truth.

[4978] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I don't expect you to speak to any untruth, but it is important to remember that this meeting took place yesterday and the day before. So, just over the last two days. Secondly, you were there yourself, so you have personal knowledge. Thirdly, each meeting took place over two to three hours. So, in those circumstances, I think I'm entitled to ask you, from your perspective, what were the documents which Mr Singh and Ms Lim brought along to the meeting. Please answer the question.

[4979] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, my answer to the question that I'm privy to the document I have with me. I'm not privy of the documents that they have with them. That would be my answer.

[4980] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To the extent that you are aware, did they bring documents to the meeting?

[4981] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I just want to say that that's my reply to you.

[4982] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, to the extent that you are aware, did they bring any documents to the meeting?

[4983] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, I'm not going to answer that question.

[4984] **The Chairman:** Mr Faisal Manap.

[4985] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, Sir.

[4986] **The Chairman:** Earlier, I mentioned that you have taken a solemn obligation to answer our questions truthfully. If you refuse to answer our questions directly or attempt to mislead the Committee, that such behaviour will be an offence and in contempt of this Committee.

[4987] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand, Sir.

[4988] **The Chairman:** What we're asking of is that in the last two days, you've had fairly extensive discussions, over two to three hours. We don't expect you to know perhaps all the fine details, but we're asking you whether were there such documents, what might they possibly

be. And, in your best opinion, what were they and we will verify with the two said persons. So, these are fair questions to ask and I would expect you to answer them to the best of your ability.

[4989] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, Sir. I did the affirmation, yes, that I will tell the truth, nothing but the truth and the whole truth. So, to avoid from not telling the truth —

[4990] **The Chairman:** And to answer our questions directly and to the best of your knowledge.

[4991] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, and I'm not here to mislead. This is my document and this is what I have say.

[4992] **The Chairman:** I understand but let me say this. In the course of discussions and if the documents, you were discussing dates, issues, we are trying to understand are there other documents that might have been available that others might have brought to the discussions because that would help us therefore also clarify with them further.

[4993] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. To me, what I can say is what document I brought into the meeting.

[4994] **The Chairman:** So, would we place on record that you refuse to answer that question?

[4995] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, you can say that, Sir.

[4996] **The Chairman:** Noted.

[4997] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, can you please reconsider answering the question because it is a very serious problem if you either prevaricate or you refuse to assist this Committee. So, can you please reconsider?

[4998] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, as I mentioned, I took an affirmation earlier on. I don't want to mislead. Why I am doing this is because I do not want to mislead the Committee, instead of me trying to say and I may actually mislead the Committee.

[4999] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, all I asked you for repeatedly over the last 10 minutes was from your perspective, from your knowledge, whether they brought documents, and if so, what documents those were, from your perspective.

[5000] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not going to answer that.

[5001] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because you were in the meeting over two days, two or three hours each, sat with them to discuss what must be top of your mind, this inquiry that's going on. It's quite inconceivable that you can't answer, from your perspective, whether they brought any documents to this meeting and if so, what those documents are.

[5002] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, I took my affirmation and I'm clear that what I have said and I do not want to mislead, to give something which is not the truth. That's my stand.

[5003] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No. You must not speak any untruth here and I think you —

[5004] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm speaking the truth.

[5005] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. But I'm also asking you to answer a question from your perspective. And you heard Mr Chairman said just now that it is a fair question. So, please answer the question.

[5006] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not going to answer that question. As I mentioned to you, the purpose is I don't want to give any misleading information.

[5007] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you know if they brought any documents to the meeting? Yes or no?

[5008] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In terms of, yes, I think they did bring, they did bring, because for their own references.

[5009] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. Thank you.

[5010] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, possible.

[5011] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you know what those documents are?

[5012] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned just now, I'm not going to answer that question.

[5013] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Alright. I've asked you several times.

[5014] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[5015] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, are you refusing to answer?

[5016] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, that's my stand.

[5017] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did they discuss, in the course of the two to three hours with you each time, your chronology or your recollection of the sequence of events. Yes or no?

[5018] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, I've being called here to talk about the issue of Raeesah lying in Parliament and that's my focus.

[5019] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Thank you. Let me explain to you why I'm asking the question, okay? I sat here for the last two and a half hours listening to your evidence.

[5020] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5021] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And if I may just summarise it very generally. I know there are some details. You are saying there was a conversation on 8 August.

- [5022] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5023] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There was a meeting with the CEC on 29 October.
- [5024] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5025] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There was a Parliamentary session on 1 November, when Ms Khan made her personal explanation. But it seems that there's nothing much that you were privy to in the middle.
- [5026] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [5027] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you recall?
- [5028] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5029] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, I now find out that you came into this inquiry, prepared with a note that sets out the sequence of events.
- [5030] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, for me to remember.
- [5031] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, which I would like to understand how that came about, because if you only had two or three touch points, two or three occasions at which you had meetings with Ms Khan concerning the issue that we are inquiring into today, then it would be odd that you would have a note like this which would require a two- to three-hour meeting over two days just before today.
- [5032] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, the thing is that I prepared the notes on my own; not during the meeting that I prepared the notes. It's on my own, because I was asked whether I consulted anyone about my notes. I did consult. I did ask about whether I've got the right dates. I can share with you the notes. There's nothing in it for me to hide.
- [5033] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, no, we'll come to that, we'll come to that. But I'm just trying to understand whether or not you were given any input to the sequence of events.
- [5034] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** From?
- [5035] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** From Mr Singh or Ms Lim.
- [5036] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, because I mentioned to you I did my notes on my own.
- [5037] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.
- [5038] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I wrote it.
- [5039] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, what was discussed at this two- to three-hour meeting?

[5040] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The thing is, we did discuss about the issue of Raeesah as a whole, trying to basically recall, because here we are, we are supposed to meet up with the Committee. Okay? So, I don't want to go much into the detail of the meeting.

[5041] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What do you mean by “Raeesah as a whole”? Can you explain?

[5042] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do not want to go much into the meeting because the focus here, as I mentioned to you just now, I'm here to answer to the questions posed by the Committee about the lie. And here I am presenting myself as a witness.

[5043] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which I appreciate, Mr Faisal, but, you see, I'm trying to understand the facts fully.

[5044] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I'm giving you the facts.

[5045] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, and you —

[5046] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And the facts are coming from me.

[5047] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me finish. I think we have this rule, right? Let's not speak over each other.

[5048] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry about that.

[5049] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, we have the facts but the relevant sequence of events need to come out. And I'm trying to understand whether or not there was material which perhaps you have forgotten, which Mr Singh or Ms Lim may have —

[5050] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[5051] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — reminded you about. Or whether you discussed — and you did say that you discussed Ms Khan as a whole, and spent two or three hours on each day twice over the last two days. So, I'm just trying to understand whether or not the evidence you're giving today is influenced by that discussion —

[5052] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[5053] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — or whether or not it is entirely your own recollection.

[5054] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's my recollection. I put it on writing. And as I mentioned, I confirm and confidently say it is mine.

[5055] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, and I have no reason to doubt you on this, Mr Faisal.

[5056] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, Mr Edwin, but the way you asked me repeatedly, I felt that you are basically not —

[5057] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm trying to be as thorough as I can to understand the substratum of the facts that give rise to the sequence of events and which also support the evidence you have given today. That's my objective, okay? So, please don't misinterpret or don't read anything else into it.

[5058] This note, did Ms Lim or Mr Singh give you any comments to it? Did they talk about your note?

[5059] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, I mentioned to you that this is my note. Alright? So, I believe you want to ask me about the issue that we are discussing right now. Why —

[5060] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Please answer my question, Mr Faisal. I'm not asking you whether you prepared the note. I told you I believe you on this. My question is, and listen very carefully, did Mr Singh or Ms Lim give you any comments on this note?

[5061] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. I just checked with them the dates. That's it.

[5062] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And did they help you with the dates?

[5063] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** According to what they remember and what I remember, just the dates.

[5064] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, right. So, they shared their own recollection with you and you discussed it. Correct?

[5065] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, as I mentioned, this is what I wrote and asked them whether I got the sequence right.

[5066] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, you did discuss the sequence with them and you did discuss the date.

[5067] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The date itself. The content wise, I'm very sure it's supposed to come from me. I don't want to be influenced by anyone else because this is what I said. These are my words. I don't believe in trying to change it because someone's trying to influence me of giving some other details.

[5068] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course.

[5069] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, and I understand that is my responsibility.

[5070] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course, Mr Faisal.

[5071] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I have to present my own records, my own findings to the Committee.

[5072] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, Mr Faisal. And just to be clear to you, I'm not suggesting otherwise.

[5073] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, Mr Edwin, by the way I got it from you, you are implying that.

[5074] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm not at all.

[5075] **The Chairman:** If I may interject, Mr Faisal Manap. If, in the course of the last two days, yourself, Mr Pritam Singh and Ms Sylvia Lim met to discuss, just make sure you get the details right in preparation for the interviews with the Committee of Privileges, these are relevant material. We are just asking to ascertain. There's no accusation being made. So, let's just take it at face value. The questions are posed. Respond as best as you can and we carry on from there. Thank you.

[5076] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, could you make available the documents that you have with you, the sequence of events as well as your notes of the DP inquiry? Can you make that available to the Secretariat for copies to be given to us?

[5077] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay. Sure, sure.

[5078] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, thank you. One of the other reasons I go into this, Mr Faisal, is because it seems to me that you, as one of the most senior members of the Workers' Party, from the messages I see, you also are regarded as a somewhat of a confidante of Ms Khan, especially on Malay/Muslim issues and you're also on the CEC of the Workers' Party.

[5079] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5080] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The evidence that you have given puts across a picture of you having almost little to no involvement in what is a huge issue, as far as integrity, honesty and transparency is concerned.

[5081] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. It is the case.

[5082] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. And I'm trying to understand why. Because it strikes me that, as a senior member of the Workers' Party, let alone a CEC member and so on, someone in your position would have wanted to be interested in knowing what's going on with your Party.

[5083] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5084] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And on an issue as grave and serious as this, would you not agree?

[5085] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's fair. In general, it's fair.

[5086] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, to be very honest with you, as I was watching you give evidence to Mr Lee, what piqued my interest about your note there and your construction of a sequence of events, is how is it that you don't really have very much involvement but could spend some time preparing a sequence of events? It strikes me that there is perhaps something that you might need to refresh yourself over.

- [5087] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's why I say —
- [5088] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me finish, hold on, Mr Faisal. Let's not speak over each other, okay? I'm just trying to see whether I can be of assistance to you and help you look at the memo, and ask you if there are any other occasions in there, besides those days that I mentioned, which you might now recollect. So, please take a look at the note.
- [5089] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** This is real with me.
- [5090] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, let's start with what you said about 8 August.
- [5091] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5092] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you were concerned with Ms Khan's speech earlier about female genital mutilation (FGM) and polygamous marriages, right?
- [5093] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5094] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, we saw earlier an exhibit which contains Ms Khan's Facebook publication on 8 August, right?
- [5095] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5096] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me summarise your evidence from earlier. You told us that you went into this meeting focused on the issues: FGM and polygamous marriages. And you were very keen to ensure that there was a clarification. Correct?
- [5097] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5098] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she then accounted to you about her own sexual assault experience.
- [5099] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5100] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you were, in your words, overwhelmed by it?
- [5101] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5102] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you said that she had broken down and she was crying.
- [5103] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5104] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Those were your words, right? Okay. Would you accept that she took on board your suggestions, yours and probably Mr Singh's and Ms Lim's suggestions from the meeting and went back and prepared the note?
- [5105] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Suggestions on?

[5106] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On what that note on FGM and polygamous marriages should —

[5107] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On the FGM and polygamy?

[5108] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[5109] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, we did mention to her that “it is you who needs to come out with the statement”.

[5110] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you would have given her suggestions, right?

[5111] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not really.

[5112] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not really?

[5113] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5114] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You, earlier on, in response to Mr Lee's question, you said that at one stage, Ms Khan had calmed down and that you were able to proceed to discuss the Malay/Muslim (MM) issues, right?

[5115] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5116] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At that point in time when she had calmed down, did you discuss with her what relevant issues might arise, the views from the ground, how she should tackle any clarification and so on?

[5117] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, that has been done throughout, 3 August to before we met. So, there's a WhatsApp communication between me and her, updating her about the comments from the community and what I responded.

[5118] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. Mr Faisal, sorry to cut you off on this time, but I'm focused on 8 August. I know you have a preceding line of messages with her, but I'm focused on 8 August.

[5119] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On 8 August, I recall that we just want her to come out with the statement and to address the concern of the community.

[5120] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you would have given her suggestions as to how to come up with a statement and to address the concerns of the community, correct?

[5121] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned it to Minister, I did tell her about the need to put the point where she's not against Islamic teaching, yes.

[5122] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Right. And in your view, she did so, right, eventually with her post?

[5123] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, she omitted the thing.

- [5124] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She omitted.
- [5125] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She didn't put up the thing.
- [5126] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But she put up a post thereafter, on the same day, right?
- [5127] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5128] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that was the consensus that you had reached on that at that meet, right? That she should put up a post.
- [5129] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, she put out with the WhatsApp. After we left, she came out —
- [5130] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm not talking about any WhatsApps here yet, so don't jump ahead of me.
- [5131] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm sorry about that.
- [5132] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm talking about the Facebook post.
- [5133] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5134] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At the meeting, you discussed for her to put up a further clarification or a clarification —
- [5135] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct, correct.
- [5136] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — concerning FGM and polygamy?
- [5137] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5138] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To address concerns of the community?
- [5139] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [5140] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which you had shared with her?
- [5141] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, a few days ago.
- [5142] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** A few days ago and also at the meeting?
- [5143] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not much at the meeting.
- [5144] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not much at the meeting.
- [5145] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I just told her about the concerns that we had shared.

- [5146] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, she went back and she then drafted the post?
- [5147] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [5148] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you see the draft?
- [5149] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, she WhatsApped to me.
- [5150] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Did you give comments?
- [5151] **20 Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5152] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you exchange comments several times?
- [5153] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5154] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then thereafter she posted it, right, with your comments – taking on board your comments?
- [5155] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She didn't agree with me when I told her to put the statement where she's not against that – the thing that I told her that, “Whatever is yours is yours, but I prefer you to put this, but if you choose not to put it” and it's supposed to be her own words.
- [5156] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, of course, it has to be her own words.
- [5157] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5158] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she would be entitled to say, “I accept some, but not accept some of your suggestions”?
- [5159] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, indeed.
- [5160] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which must be the reasons why you were exchanging text after text on comments; right?
- [5161] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [5162] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You also gave us the impression that she was very affected by this incident and, in fact wanted to resign as a result of this incident.
- [5163] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.
- [5164] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'd like you to pick up this bundle. You were referred to it earlier – quite a thick bundle. That this is given to us by Ms Loh Pei Ying of the messages that were exchanged between herself and Ms Loh – Ms Khan and Mr Yudhishthra Nathan. [*A message was referred to.*]
- [5165] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

- [5166] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you have it, Mr Faisal?
- [5167] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do. Which page?
- [5168] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, I know it's a very substantial bundle. Can you please turn to page 21. You will see the page numbers on the bottom right hand side.
- [5169] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I'm —
- [5170] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you have it?
- [5171] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I'm on the page 21.
- [5172] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Just for context first: you know Ms Loh and Mr Nathan; right?
- [5173] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do know them, but not close to them.
- [5174] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you know that they are (a) cadre members of the Workers' Party, correct?
- [5175] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5176] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And (b) they are also activists who support Ms Khan in her ward at Sengkang, correct?
- [5177] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [5178] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would also know that these two activists are close to Ms Khan, right?
- [5179] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I only know they are very close when we interviewed them during the DP. I mean, before that, I know that they are supporting her.
- [5180] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. Thank you. Meaning they work closely with her, they would discuss her social media postings with her.
- [5181] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, that's my general understanding.
- [5182] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** They would discuss the speeches with her, right?
- [5183] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's my general understanding.
- [5184] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, this is a WhatsApp group that has the three of them together. So, you'll see beginning from around the middle of the page, at page 21, that they start having a discussion very early in the morning or late at night, depending on how you look at it, at 12.00 am, right?
- [5185] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[5186] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then you just quickly scroll down and go to the next page, and you'll see very briefly that sometime in the late morning, at around the time you that had the meeting with Ms Khan at Mr Singh's home. [A message was referred to.]

[5187] Ms Loh Pei Ying says: "There's nothing wrong with your values and beliefs. There's nothing wrong with you standing for it." She goes on to say: "What's wrong is people want you to change it and concede to something that you don't stand for." So, her advice, "So, just let them yabber away." And she goes on to say, "This Muslim community thing, it'll pass. Honestly, remember it's only Compassvale or Sengkang that matters." And she then says: "I spent the morning reading FB", which I think is Facebook "and the support for your speech, Rae, is just as loud as the voices against it." So, that's something that would convey to Ms Khan that the comments on her speech were not one-sided against her, right?

[5188] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The comments on the speech from the?

[5189] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** From the general community and on the social media community were not one-sided?

[5190] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct, based on the WhatsApp.

[5191] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on this, yes.

[5192] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5193] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This is Ms Khan reading it and so this is the impression she would get, right?

[5194] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5195] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And I think if you correlate that to the evidence you gave earlier, it is around this time that she would have gone to meet with you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim.

[5196] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 11.00.

[5197] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Around that time, right?

[5198] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 11.00 am, yes.

[5199] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Then you go over the page, to page 23. Ms Khan then emerges from the meeting with you and you mentioned earlier that the meeting was from about 11.00 am to about 12.00 pm or so, right?

[5200] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5201] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, at 12.41 pm, Ms Khan then writes to Ms Loh and Mr Nathan, and this is the WhatsApp message that Mr Lee took you to earlier. Okay? And I would like you to look at the last – the message after that, and she says: "These past few days have been filled with lots of reflections on my part. I thought about my role as a Member of Parliament and as a Muslim women. I don't think these identities are separate and both are

important parts of who I am today. I have already many opinions from both sides.” This is at 12.42 pm.

[5202] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5203] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right, as she steps away from the meeting that she had with you at Mr Singh's home, correct?

[5204] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5205] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you agree – maybe I'll ask you to look at a few more messages. So, go down the page. She then says at 12.47 pm, five minutes later: “I think I want to share that I'm a Muslim woman and no one can take that away from me.” And if you go over the page, several other suggestions from Ms Loh and Yudhish, who, at 12.49 pm says: “Honestly, don't really need to explain yourself. Rightfully, I feel...” and so on. So, Mr Faisal, right after coming out from this meeting, Ms Khan, at least based on these messages to her close associates, makes a very bold statement, a very stout statement, “I am a Muslim woman and no one can take that away from me.”

[5206] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5207] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She's proud of that fact and standing by it, correct?

[5208] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Based on the —

[5209] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on this.

[5210] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5211] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you see anywhere in the immediate aftermath of the meeting with you, that Ms Khan was affected by the discussion or that she had expressed any desire to resign to her closest associates, based on these messages?

[5212] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Based on the WhatsApp, no.

[5213] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In fact, your view was that she should not resign, correct?

[5214] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5215] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You had expressed that to her, correct?

[5216] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5217] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You had quoted her several religious phrases to support her psychologically, correct?

[5218] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[5219] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you must have formed that view because not only were you supporting her with religious phrases to give her moral support, I assume, which is very good of you, but also because you believed that she had a role to play in the Workers' Party. Correct?

[5220] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, she's an MP.

[5221] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[5222] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5223] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that she can continue being an MP, correct?

[5224] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5225] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which is why you said, "Don't resign". That's your view, correct?

[5226] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5227] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you felt she had a role to play also to serve her residents in the capacity as the Workers' Party MP, correct?

[5228] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5229] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, when you gave your perception or your sense of what happened on 8 August meeting, I think one has to look at it in conjunction with what she shared privately with her own close associates and also with the view that you formed. Correct?

[5230] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The view that I formed on?

[5231] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On whether she should resign or not.

[5232] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The resign came – the resign – the one I mentioned —

[5233] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Answer my question and then you can elaborate.

[5234] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, you see that —

[5235] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me elaborate —

[5236] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because there's a bit of incorrectness in terms of the way, the sequence of your question, because the resign came much later. It's not related to this particular scenario.

[5237] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, let's take it step by step. Would you agree that the description of how she came across at the meeting on 8 August with you has also to be looked in the context of her private expressions with her two closest associates? Correct?

- [5238] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5239] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And we agreed earlier that in none of those discussions, based on WhatsApp, was there any expression of a desire to resign, correct?
- [5240] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5241] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Nor, I would put it to you, based on what we saw earlier, was there any feeling of doubt concerning what she has put out from a Muslim perspective. Correct?
- [5242] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** From the WhatsApp, yes.
- [5243] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In fact, as we saw, she stoutly defends the position, correct?
- [5244] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, agree.
- [5245] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And concerning a desire to resign, you talked about a timeframe, so let's look at the timeframe. The relevant period for consideration, obviously, which eventually led to her resigning would obviously be the speech she made in Parliament on 3 August, as a starting point, because the falsehoods were there, all the way through to 30 November, when she did resign. Right?
- [5246] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, as I mentioned – sorry.
- [5247] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Answer my question first.
- [5248] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I cannot answer. I need to say that something is not right with your — what you have mentioned to me.
- [5249] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** My question? Okay. Tell me what's not right.
- [5250] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I did mention to Minister Desmond earlier on that during the DP second meeting, she did mention to us that at that point in time where she felt very affected by the issue of the FGC and polygamy, she felt that she was going to become a liability.
- [5251] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, so —
- [5252] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, so that's why she said in particular, she feels like she wants to resign because she felt she's becoming a liability, due to these two issues.
- [5253] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the timeframe is the August period because she made the speech in August, right? So, those two issues arise in August, correct?
- [5254] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5255] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me maybe simplify for you, Mr Faisal, so we're all clear. Your expression to her that she should not resign came after August, correct?

[5256] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5257] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, thank you. You also will know that right after this meeting on 8 August, Ms Khan proceeded to serve her residents, attend functions, events as per normal, right?

[5258] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5259] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you think that there was anything unusual in the way in which she discharged her responsibilities and her duties as an MP to her residents?

[5260] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't say much about that because I wasn't there. I don't know what's going on. I know she does continue her — yes.

[5261] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** As far as you were aware of, did you think that there was anything or did you hear about anything of being unusual?

[5262] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Nothing.

[5263] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Nothing, right. She attended NDP and you were there as well, correct?

[5264] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5265] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On that occasion, did she tell you that she wants to resign?

[5266] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[5267] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She was selected as a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. Were you aware?

[5268] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Only aware after she put up a posting or something like that.

[5269] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Posting, yes. And she attended the committee meeting on political matters for the 42nd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. That's the post that you referred to, right?

[5270] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Should be.

[5271] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. You would also be aware and I think she's made this public that she also, in fact, covered Assoc Prof Jamus Lim's meet-the-people session (MPS) duties; right?

[5272] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I think when he was away.

- [5273] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** He was away. This would be on 23 August?
- [5274] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not so sure about the date, but I understand that she did cover Jamus.
- [5275] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, and that is in addition to her own MPS which also resumed around that period of time, right?
- [5276] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Which I believe so.
- [5277] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the usual activities and responsibilities as an MP, just so that we are clear, I know we both do it, would be market visits, house visits and —
- [5278] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't say in detail what are the activities, but I know she does — she did her —
- [5279] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This would be what you know that she does, right?
- [5280] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do not know about that. I just know that she resumed her MP duties, that's all. Detail-wise, I'm not so sure.
- [5281] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Fair enough. And you didn't hear anything unusual or untoward, right?
- [5282] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, nothing.
- [5283] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, thank you. Let's go back to 8 August again.
- [5284] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.
- [5285] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You said earlier that the discussion on FGM and polygamy was a short discussion, you exchanged some views?
- [5286] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5287] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Or was there more than that? Can you tell me?
- [5288] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I cannot exactly recall what, when, the details, to be honest, yes.
- [5289] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. But was it a long discussion, a short discussion? Was it a heated discussion, was it a —
- [5290] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Obviously, there's no anger, no heated discussion.
- [5291] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On the polygamy issues?
- [5292] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because I mentioned that, much earlier, we had kind of like discussed or, given her my point of view on the whole thing, yes.

[5293] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that's right, Mr Faisal. That's the point I was getting to, that, actually, 8 August, as far as the FGM and polygamy issues, the meeting on 8 August was really a culmination of discussion, topics, comments that you had already initiated with Ms Khan over several days, correct?

[5294] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, in a way, to come to an agreement that we need to come out with a statement, yes.

[5295] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meaning it was not raised for the first time on 8 August; it was a culmination of several discussions along the way, right?

[5296] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, can I go back to the point where I discussed with Raeesah? Basically, from 3 August, after her speech until 8 August, it's more of my observation of the social media posting as well as my personal views, how I responded, because I did receive a lot of queries on that, being a senior —

[5297] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. My point is all of these, your personal views and community views, were all shared with Ms Khan before 8 August, right?

[5298] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5299] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it's not as if you need to discuss that afresh, correct?

[5300] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We need to discuss on the statement, basically.

[5301] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On what to do, right? These issues —

[5302] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We needed to come out with a statement.

[5303] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Your views, community views, she already knew, right?

[5304] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[5305] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, if that was the case, what else did you spend the rest of the time at the meeting discussing?

[5306] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned just now, we were focusing after she confessed of her being [sexually assaulted], that's the major part of the discussion that happened that day, to console and basically to listen to her and give her support, yes.

[5307] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.

[5308] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That basically took up much of the time.

[5309] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. But you would accept that she also made a confession to you, Mr Singh and Ms Lim that what she said in Parliament on 3 August was false, right?

[5310] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5311] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This, to be clear, would be the falsehood that she spoke about in connection with that anecdote that she used to support her speech —

[5312] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5313] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — about accompanying a sexual assault victim to make a Police report, right? Which never happened?

[5314] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5315] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you agree that that anecdote, if true, would cast a bad light on the Police?

[5316] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again?

[5317] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you agree that that anecdote, if true, would cast a bad light on the Police?

[5318] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, in general, if you make an untruth call, it does put a bad light.

[5319] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. An untruth is bad enough.

[5320] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5321] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But in this case, the untruth relates to the reaction of the Police to a sexual assault victim making a Police report?

[5322] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5323] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, if that story or the anecdote was true, it would put the Police in a very bad light, right?

[5324] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Again, can you repeat that part? Sorry about that.

[5325] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, sure. I will rephrase it.

[5326] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm starting to lose my concentration. Sorry.

[5327] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, I understand. If that story or the anecdote that Ms Khan spoke about in Parliament was true, people would think badly of the Police, right?

- [5328] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.
- [5329] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the reason for that is because they will think that the Police don't treat sexual assault victims properly, right?
- [5330] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's the impression the public is going to get, yes.
- [5331] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And at the same time, sexual assault victims would also be worried about making a report to the Police if that anecdote was true, correct?
- [5332] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5333] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And on top of this, lying in Parliament is a very serious problem, right?
- [5334] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Agree.
- [5335] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In fact, it might be an offence, correct?
- [5336] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Agree.
- [5337] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We came into Parliament at the same time. So, you would regard yourself as one of the more senior members of the Workers' Party. As an MP, serving your third term, you would appreciate the gravity of that situation, correct?
- [5338] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [5339] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And would you also accept that either lying in Parliament or allowing a lie to be perpetuated in Parliament, both are just as bad? Correct?
- [5340] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, yes, correct.
- [5341] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If you know of a true fact which would correct a deception on Parliament, then keeping quiet is also a problem, correct?
- [5342] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [5343] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It would also possibly amount to an offence, correct?
- [5344] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [5345] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, so, when Ms Khan made this confession to you and to Mr Singh and Ms Lim, there must have been a very serious reaction from all three of you, correct?
- [5346] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Can you elaborate more what you mean by "serious reaction"?

[5347] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sure. You must have been very alarmed that one of your MPs had now come and told you that she had spoken an untruth in Parliament, correct?

[5348] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry.

[5349] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, do you agree?

[5350] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, as I mentioned earlier to Minister Desmond Lee, that we are – myself was overwhelmed and I gave the sequence where, let's say, if my daughter were to —

[5351] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand. I don't think you need to repeat that.

[5352] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That part, yes.

[5353] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I'm now focused on the fact that, yes, we're all, and I think quite rightly, very sympathetic to the experience, not just of Ms Khan, but of any sexual assault victim. But at the same time, as an experienced Member of Parliament and one of the leaders of the Workers' Party, the immediate other issue that you would be very aware of is that there is a serious problem in telling a lie to Parliament —

[5354] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5355] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — and now, as of 8 August, you and two other very senior members of the Workers' Party are aware.

[5356] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5357] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, my question is: when you found out about that, despite being overwhelmed with sympathy, which is quite right, you must also have been quite alarmed that this has happened, correct?

[5358] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, yes.

[5359] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, thank you. And the alarm stems from the fact that a lie has been told in Parliament, right?

[5360] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5361] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that lie, besides being a lie and a deception on Parliament, also impacts Police and sexual assault victims, correct?

[5362] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5363] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it's an issue that must have struck you almost immediately, that there is a lie, it's a big problem, it has impact on Police and sexual assault victims, correct?

[5364] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5365] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In that context, what was discussed between yourself, Mr Singh and Ms Lim once you heard and knew of the confession by Ms Khan?

[5366] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, you mean our discussion on the issue of the lie?

[5367] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Well, let me paint the scenario for you.

[5368] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[5369] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you are at Mr Singh's home.

[5370] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5371] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan has made some confessions.

[5372] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5373] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** One of which is her own experience, for which you felt sympathetic, and the other is the confession or admission to a very serious problem in Parliament, a lie in Parliament.

[5374] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5375] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, my question is – and I know what you have said to my colleague, Mr Lee, on the sexual assault experience – what was discussed between the three of you and Ms Khan concerning the lie in Parliament?

[5376] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned to Mr Lee earlier on, we did not touch further on that thing, because the focus at that point in time was more on her well-being. And basically when Pritam asked her whether she has told her parents, that became actually a very – a grave – I mean, a concern to us.

[5377] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Has she told her parents the lie or has she told her parents the sexual assault?

[5378] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, the sexual assault. Sorry about that.

[5379] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, are you suggesting that there was no reaction whatsoever upon being told that there was a lie spoken in Parliament just a few days before that?

[5380] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's why I came back to the point where I explained to —

[5381] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, no. Please, Mr Faisal, I think it's important to answer the question directly, and then you can give your explanation if you like. Okay? So, let me repeat again, okay? I said, are you suggesting that there was no reaction whatsoever from all three of you upon being told that there was a lie spoken in Parliament just a few days before that?

[5382] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because I personally was overwhelmed. Because the sequence I mentioned just now, the sequence that, first thing, she got assaulted and then lied.

[5383] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, this was the sequence that took place on 8 August

[5384] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5385] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** “Sequence” meaning the sequence of who said what

[5386] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5387] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me finish. The sequence of who said what at the meeting on 8 August, is that what you're saying?

[5388] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** What Raeesah said to us.

[5389] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When you mentioned “sequence” earlier, you mean the sequence of how she told you —

[5390] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5391] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — and your reaction, correct?

[5392] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** My reaction.

[5393] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yours and Mr Singh's and Ms Lim's reactions?

[5394] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5395] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is that what you referred to when you used the word “sequence”?

[5396] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, the sequence of what she said, how she broke the news. Basically, she said that she is a sexual assault victim.

[5397] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, we heard that.

[5398] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's what I meant. That's the sequence that I'm referring to.

[5399] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. I'm referring to your reaction. What was your reaction?

[5400] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, I was shocked because I was overwhelmed by the first statement that she made.

[5401] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, let me be clear, okay? I have heard in detail your evidence earlier and I don't need to revisit that. I'm focused on whether you or Ms Lim or Mr Singh had any reaction to her admission that she had lied in Parliament just a few days before that.

[5402] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, as I mentioned just now, we were overwhelmed by the first statement. And, as I mentioned, as a human being, can I be overwhelmed by certain things and suddenly I changed to become like startled, "Why are you lying?"

[5403] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, I mean —

[5404] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, because you're asking me whether there is a change of reaction.

[5405] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, perhaps I put it this way. We all have a range of emotions.

[5406] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[5407] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But we also have responsibilities.

[5408] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[5409] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And in the meeting that day are amongst the most, if not the most senior of leadership in the Workers' Party.

[5410] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5411] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you are faced with an admission by one of your colleagues, a fellow MP, that a lie has been spoken in Parliament.

[5412] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5413] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, there is an experience that she's also recounted about her own self —

[5414] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5415] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — for which sympathy was felt.

[5416] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5417] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I find it surprising that there was just no reaction whatsoever from any of you to a confession to you that a lie has been spoken in Parliament. Can you explain why that's the case?

[5418] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay. Can I go back to the sequence? When Raeesah mentioned about the sexual assault and we were overwhelmed. You are right, as a senior member of the Workers' Party and as an MP, one of the senior MPs in the Workers'

Party, not only do I have my concern on the Party and the lie that she said, but also I have my concern on her. And as what has been stated by Ms Khan – and I think this was mentioned by Minister Desmond Lee that she trusted me – she trusts me. So, on that basis, there's some form of understanding between me and her, and, of course, my compassion would be – my evaluation at that point in time is that I need to address that issue first. I need to prioritise and address the issue of her sharing with me the difficult part of what she went through.

[5419] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand, Mr Faisal. Like you said – and I put it in your own words – part of you was concerned for her personally, as you said, you were a bit of a mentor to her, look after her. But you're also concerned about your Party, right?

[5420] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. As a senior member, there's also a concern.

[5421] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of course. So, I'm trying to address the latter part. What did you do about that concern?

[5422] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, I was overwhelmed by the first concern so much —

[5423] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Were you so overwhelmed that you could not say anything at all to the admission that she had lied?

[5424] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** This is the truth, I am telling you. I do not know where you are leading me towards. I feel that this, what I have been saying —

[5425] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The truth.

[5426] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The truth! That I feel overwhelmed.

[5427] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I am leading you to the truth.

[5428] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm telling the truth! You need to – sorry, Mr Edwin, I can't get it, you say you're leading me to the truth as though, sorry to say, as though you know the truth. Instead, I am telling the truth.

[5429] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, I'm trying to get the truth from you, Mr Faisal, I wasn't there. And it is my job to inquire.

[5430] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I've already said to Minister Desmond Lee earlier on.

[5431] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, bear with us, right?

[5432] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm sorry about that.

[5433] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We have to not just ask questions, but the reason we ask, Mr Faisal, is because we are, we have to not just make a finding, but we have to give a reason and a basis. Okay? So, I hope you understand, when I ask you questions that surround

not just what you said, but why you said, why you didn't say, what was your reaction, it is really to understand the basis of findings that we will be making eventually. Okay?

[5434] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand that.

[5435] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, I go back to my point. The reason I asked you those questions earlier, and I'm not trying to trick you, Mr Faisal. I am trying to say: your state of mind, as a seasoned, senior member of Workers' Party —

[5436] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5437] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — reacting in the way that I think we all do when we are told that there's an untruth spoken in Parliament, very serious, impacting Police and behaviour of sexual assault victims. When you're told about that, even though I understand the fact that you're overwhelmed and you're very affected by what she had said about her own experience, which I understand, and I think it's good that you were there for her as well. But I also have to address my mind to what is the reaction to the other part of her admission, which I think is also very serious.

[5438] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5439] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you not agree? Also very serious, right?

[5440] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's a fair thing for you to ask me. Yes, I do agree.

[5441] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, this meeting that took place on 8 August started at about 11.00 am, you said, went on to about 12.00 noon, so an hour, an hour-plus. Are you saying that in the entire period of time, apart from Ms Khan speaking about the admission that she lied in Parliament, no other words were spoken by you, or Ms Lim or Mr Singh about this issue at all?

[5442] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Issue of the lie?

[5443] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of the lie.

[5444] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5445] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not a single word was then spoken?

[5446] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because we are concerned about — for me, I had prioritised the focus on the issue of her distress, based on her confession. After she made the confession about her being [sexually assaulted].

[5447] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What about Mr Singh and Ms Lim?

[5448] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm overwhelmed to the extent that I don't really look around. The meaning of overwhelm is that I'm stunned and I don't have the time to look around and looking at —

- [5449] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see, it's a meeting —
- [5450] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, indeed, indeed, yes.
- [5451] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I think you're aware of where I'm coming from.
- [5452] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5453] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's a meeting at Mr Singh's home.
- [5454] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because I don't really looking at Mr Singh, looking like, "What's your reaction", I don't do that.
- [5455] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I mean, I assume it's not such a big room or —
- [5456] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We are still on the dining table – I mean, in the dining area.
- [5457] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, within a very clear line of sight of each other and you're talking about an issue that —
- [5458] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, that's my nature because I'm a counsellor. A counsellor needs to focus on what is being presented. And if you can see, I maintain my eye contact with you throughout, unless I need to record something. So, that is my way of focusing.
- [5459] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you wear several hats, Mr Faisal. You are a counsellor by profession —
- [5460] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, indeed, indeed.
- [5461] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — but you're also a fellow Member of Parliament and a senior leader of the Workers' Party?
- [5462] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, as the senior member of the Workers' Party, I do have my concern about the well-being of a younger MP who trusted me.
- [5463] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I understand all that and I think we agree: she trusted you, she saw you as a mentor, she will listen to you and she reached out on occasion for your assistance, right?
- [5464] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but we're not close, in a sense. I can say that she once in a while consult me, yes.
- [5465] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but I think we got it on the transcript earlier. So, let's focus on the second part of what she said.
- [5466] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[5467] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because to be honest with you, I think it is somewhat surprising that an admission is made like this by a fellow Member of Parliament about a Sitting that just took place a few days ago, that there was a lie, and we all appreciate the gravity of a lie and a deception on Parliament, especially in the context of Police reaction to sexual assault victims. So, I find it hard to follow why there was just no reaction whatsoever from any of the three of you who were present.

[5468] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand.

[5469] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is there any other explanation that's possible?

[5470] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** This is what I recall, and what I've shared to you is what happened, yes.

[5471] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, this meeting, when it ended, did Ms Khan leave the meeting first?

[5472] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I think she left the meeting first, and Pritam let her out, followed by me and Sylvia. We go out at the same time, but there's a distance between us, yes. We don't go out as a group.

[5473] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, did you discuss with Ms Lim or Mr Singh —

[5474] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[5475] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — at all?

[5476] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[5477] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you left all in silence and —

[5478] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5479] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — there was no discussion?

[5480] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No discussion on the lie, but of course, as I mentioned just now, at that meeting, we did discuss about how she needs to come out with a statement for the FGC and the polygamy, yes.

[5481] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But by the time the meeting ended, I think Ms Khan was fairly, in your words “composed”, able to talk about the statement, and we saw her messages immediately after the meeting, right?

[5482] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5483] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, coming back to the second part of her admission, are you saying that whilst you were at Mr Singh's home on 8 August, there was no discussion with your fellow Workers' Party leadership on this?

[5484] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** “On this”, you're referring to?

- [5485] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The lies in Parliament.
- [5486] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [5487] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not a single word? Are you sure?
- [5488] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5489] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And when you finished this meeting on 8 August, you would – despite being overwhelmed by Ms Khan's sexual assault experience, you would have, at some stage, registered that “Hey, there was something else that was very serious that she told us at the meeting”, right?
- [5490] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** “Registered” means saying it to myself?
- [5491] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meaning you would have remembered, you would have recalled, it would have dawned on you that there was something else very serious that she told you, right?
- [5492] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5493] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When was that?
- [5494] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I mean, throughout, I do understand that, as I mentioned, the priority was based on her well-being. But I do understand throughout that the issue has not been addressed.
- [5495] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, Mr Faisal, I'm asking you a different question. I'm saying after the meeting finished, because you told us —
- [5496] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.
- [5497] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Hang on. You told us very clearly that throughout the time at the meeting, after she uttered those words, none of you discussed it and there was —
- [5498] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5499] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — zero discussion on it, correct?
- [5500] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5501] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do I characterise your evidence correctly?
- [5502] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [5503] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Zero evidence on it. Not a word was spoken about it by any of you?
- [5504] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, that I recall.

- [5505] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not a question was asked at all, whatsoever?
- [5506] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, not asked to her.
- [5507] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Amongst yourselves?
- [5508] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [5509] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Also not?
- [5510] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We did; oh, sorry, that one was about whether, Pritam did ask about who else knows about the [sexual assault], so it's different, correct, yes.
- [5511] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, zero?
- [5512] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Zero.
- [5513] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, now I'm at the stage after the meeting. And I said: at some stage after the meeting, it would have dawned on you or registered to you that there was something else that was very important which Ms Khan confessed, right?
- [5514] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Because I have that in my mind, yes.
- [5515] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, when was that?
- [5516] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's always been in my mind that there's another issue that we did not address.
- [5517] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, in your mind, when did you go and address it?
- [5518] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I did not address it at all. I did not address at all because —
- [5519] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You didn't think about it at all?
- [5520] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I did not address it at all. I know that there's no closure to that discussion, but I did not pursue in any way, whether with Raeesah, Pritam or Sylvia, about this thing. As I mentioned to Minister Desmond Lee earlier on, that I trust being a senior member of the Workers' Party, and I've been with Pritam and Sylvia for the past 10 years as MP colleague, and more with Sylvia because I joined the Party in 2006, I have the trust that Pritam, who knows Raeesah better among the three of us, will take the right step. And the trust that Raeesah has in me, I also trusted that she will do the same thing, the right thing.
- [5521] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, let's break it down a bit. You left the meeting.
- [5522] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5523] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You didn't thereafter discuss the issue of the lie with either Ms Lim or Mr Singh?

[5524] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5525] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At all?

[5526] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5527] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Are you sure?

[5528] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5529] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you, therefore, wouldn't know – let me rephrase this. And because you didn't discuss with them at all, you therefore would not know if they have dealt with the problem, correct?

[5530] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Can you repeat that? Sorry.

[5531] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Since you didn't discuss it with them at all after the meeting or even at the meeting, you would have no idea if either Ms Lim or Mr Singh addressed the problem, correct?

[5532] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.

[5533] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you accept that it is a problem that has to be addressed, correct?

[5534] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5535] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In fact, it's a very serious problem, correct?

[5536] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5537] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In your own mind, would it have to be addressed?

[5538] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. That's why I said, I trust Pritam and Raeesah, whom she trusted me, she trusts me, to know what is the right thing to do.

[5539] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, in your mind, what steps should have been taken to address it?

[5540] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She would come clean. Sorry, she should admit, put the record straight, correct the record of what she has mentioned on 3 August.

[5541] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. When?

[5542] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Throughout.

[5543] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When should she come and do it?

- [5544] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, that's the part where —
- [5545] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Answer my question.
- [5546] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I'm answering your question, Mr Edwin.
- [5547] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When?
- [5548] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** When is because — the timeframe or the timeline, I leave it to Pritam because Pritam need to make a judgement based on his assessment of Raeesah's condition.
- [5549] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. So, you say you didn't discuss anything with either of them.
- [5550] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5551] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But somehow you know —
- [5552] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That is my assumption because —
- [5553] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me finish.
- [5554] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, sorry.
- [5555] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You say – and I think you're trying to pre-empt my question because you saw the logical gap.
- [5556] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not pre-empting.
- [5557] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You saw the logical gap. You see, if you didn't discuss with them at all, period, zero, you say, how then, would you know that Mr Singh would only allow Ms Khan to come forward when the assessment is: she's okay to do so? How would you know that?
- [5558] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I mentioned to you earlier on that we have been Party colleagues and MPs for the past 10 years. We know each other's style. We know each other's character. So, based on that, of course, we'll come to an assumption that Pritam will do what is needed to be done and the trust that Raeesah will do the right thing.
- [5559] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You said, in answer to my question, when I asked you when, you said, “I leave it to Pritam because Pritam needs to make a judgement based on his assessment of Raeesah's condition.”
- [5560] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I did not communicate that, “I leave it to you, Pritam”. But, personally, that's my thought, that I would leave it to Pritam to manage this case, based on his judgement.

[5561] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, for someone to come to that conclusion, you need several steps. Behind that statement that you just made, there are several steps that need to be taken before you reach the conclusion.

[5562] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Well, what do you suggest the several steps are?

[5563] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The steps are: number one, it's a serious problem.

[5564] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, I agree.

[5565] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Number two, there needs to be a clarification. Number three —

[5566] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Clarification on?

[5567] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** About the lie —

[5568] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** From Raeesah herself?

[5569] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[5570] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[5571] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Number three, Mr Singh needs to make a judgement. Number four, there has to be an assessment of Raeesah's condition.

[5572] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5573] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How is it that you can form this view of Mr Singh if you don't communicate with him about this issue at all?

[5574] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned earlier, we have been colleagues for 10 years.

[5575] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Have you ever had another occasion where a Member of Parliament lied in Parliament, Mr Faisal?

[5576] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again?

[5577] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Have you ever had an occasion previously where a Workers' Party Member lied in Parliament?

[5578] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I didn't recall of someone who lied in Parliament.

[5579] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** During your term?

[5580] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, what I can recall is personally about myself.

- [5581] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me —
- [5582] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5583] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I don't need to ask you those questions. I just want to ask you, very clearly. In your 11 years or so in Parliament, during the time that you say you know Mr Singh very well —
- [5584] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, okay.
- [5585] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — in that period of time, were you aware of any other occasion where a Member of Parliament spoke an untruth in Parliament?
- [5586] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, I recall the time where Pritam was alleged to be saying that he plagiarised, that particular, yes.
- [5587] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I think we know where we're coming from. I want to know whether there is another previous occasion that is similar to Ms Khan's occasion when there was an outright lie which affects the proceedings in Parliament directly and which affects the Police and sexual assault victims. Yes or no?
- [5588] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. Sorry, I misunderstood that part.
- [5589] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's okay. Was there another occasion when a fellow Member of Parliament came to you to make a confession about having experienced a sexual assault personally?
- [5590] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [5591] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, these are two important but completely new scenarios, Mr Faisal, right?
- [5592] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [5593] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you were told about this on the first occasion on 8 August, all of these events, the lie as well as the sexual assault, correct?
- [5594] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5595] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In your entire experience with Mr Singh, neither of you has experienced this in the Party, correct?
- [5596] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5597] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, to say that you would be able to tell that Mr Singh will sort the problem out by making a clarification but make a judgement on Raeesah's condition, you could not have reached that understanding without having discussed it with him, right?

[5598] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That is me. That's what I'm, what I told you is me. I trust someone, I've known him for 10 years. Based on those 10 years, I believe he will do the right thing.

[5599] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, we all can say that but remember I told you that we also have to understand the basis of why you have that belief, right? And—

[5600] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, because the basis is that I've worked with him for 10 years.

[5601] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you also know that this experience is a completely novel one.

[5602] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, but I know his values. I know his values, I know his character. So, in that, I trust. I trust him. The scenario would be different throughout, yes, but how you handle the scenario difference is based on your values and your principles.

[5603] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.

[5604] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And I know him for the past 10 years.

[5605] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I don't disagree with that, that you know him for the past 10 years and you know him well. I'm trying to explore with you your basis of that.

[5606] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's my basis.

[5607] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Anything else?

[5608] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Nothing else.

[5609] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Nothing else. So, your entire basis of knowing that Mr Singh would be in a position to and will judge when is best for Raeesah to come clean and explain the lie in Parliament, based on her own assessment and condition, is all based on your knowing Mr Singh for 10 years?

[5610] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** His values and his principles.

[5611] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Anything else?

[5612] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Nothing else.

[5613] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you know of no other information, no other fact, no other person told you anything, which formed that impression on your part, correct?

[5614] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Impression on? Sorry.

[5615] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The understanding that Mr Singh would sort out the problem in the way that we have just explained.

- [5616] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [5617] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You know of no other basis on which you can say gave you the comfort that he would do so, right?
- [5618] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, it's based on my own – what do you call it – my trust in him, yes.
- [5619] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Going back to 8 August in Mr Singh's home, on the dining table. If – and now I'm asking you to look at it from Ms Khan's perspective – she comes forward and she makes two admissions to the senior leadership of the Workers' Party.
- [5620] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5621] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The first confession, about her own experience as a sexual assault victim, would not have been necessary but for the second confession, correct?
- [5622] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, I don't get what you're trying to ask from me.
- [5623] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Her disclosure of her own experience as a sexual assault victim would not have been necessary but for the fact that she was trying to explain the circumstances behind telling a lie in Parliament, right?
- [5624] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You're asking me if looking from Ms Khan's perspective?
- [5625] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm asking you to look at it from —
- [5626] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Her perspective?
- [5627] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** – the perspective of someone who sat in the meeting, listening to Ms Khan.
- [5628] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I thought you did mention that my – looking from Ms Khan's perspective, of which —
- [5629] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. From her perspective, she's coming forward to a Workers' Party leadership, including you, to make two confessions.
- [5630] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.
- [5631] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. You heard those confessions, right?
- [5632] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Right.
- [5633] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** From your perspective now, just so you are clear—
- [5634] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** My perspective, okay.

[5635] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — the first admission about her own experience as a sexual assault victim —

[5636] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5637] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — was only necessary to tell you because she was also making the second confession, right?

[5638] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't know what was the intention for her to mention this.

[5639] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No. From your perspective, think about it, as a matter of logic, if there was no lie in Parliament, meaning she did go and accompany someone to see the Police, if there was no such lie, there would have been no need to talk about her own experience as a sexual assault victim, right?

[5640] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't say much on that because I mentioned just now that I do not know her intention.

[5641] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, I'm not asking you for her intention. I'm asking you for someone who is the recipient of the information.

[5642] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5643] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She comes and makes a confession. Two confessions.

[5644] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[5645] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm saying that the confession about her own experience as a sexual assault victim only came about because she lied in Parliament, right?

[5646] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5647] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, because —

[5648] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, yes, on 8 August, after she lied on the 3 August, correct.

[5649] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's right. So, she disclosed her own experience to explain why she did so, correct?

[5650] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, she didn't link the two together. As I mentioned just now, she just came to us, told us that she's —

[5651] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but I'm not asking you to give me a verbatim account of what she said. I'm saying your takeaway, logic. It's pure logic, right? If she didn't lie in Parliament, there would be no explanation whatsoever that's necessary.

[5652] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In general, but I'm not a judgmental person, which I kind of like —

- [5653] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm not asking you for a judgement, Mr Faisal.
- [5654] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5655] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Don't get me wrong. I'm simply putting a point of logic to you. If there was no question of a lie—
- [5656] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5657] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** —that means the account of attending the Police station with a victim was true, then the second explanation about her own self would not arise, right? Because it's true. She did go to the Police station with a victim.
- [5658] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, I just didn't get the point you are trying to ask me. I'm sorry about that.
- [5659] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's okay. Take it one step at a time. So, she told a lie in Parliament, right?
- [5660] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [5661] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The lie was that she went to the Police station with a victim, right?
- [5662] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5663] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then she explained that the Police treated the victim badly, right?
- [5664] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5665] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she put it down as a personal account, one that she saw because she was there, right?
- [5666] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5667] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's false, right?
- [5668] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, false.
- [5669] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** False in that it never happened. She never went to the Police station and she never accompanied the victim to the Police station, right?
- [5670] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5671] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. If the account was true, there's nothing to explain in Parliament, right, because it's true?
- [5672] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.

[5673] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it is, therefore, in trying to explain the untruth, meaning – she's now saying to you, Mr Faisal, “Look, I didn't actually accompany anybody, but I got the information from my own experience in a support group”. She's trying to explain to you how she got the information, correct?

[5674] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5675] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it is in that context that she needs to disclose that she's in a support group, right?

[5676] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5677] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she was in a support group because she herself was a victim of a sexual assault, right?

[5678] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5679] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. So, therefore, it follows that if there was no lie, there was no question of a lie in Parliament about going to the Police station, the second issue of her own experience as a sexual assault victim wouldn't come up, right?

[5680] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5681] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's where I was getting to.

[5682] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, I'm sorry about that.

[5683] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, the main point of the meeting to discuss this, besides the statement, was because she had lied in Parliament.

[5684] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. I was told by Pritam, we agreed that we need to meet to discuss about the statement.

[5685] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. No, listen to my question carefully. Let me repeat it. I said the main point of the meeting to discuss this, besides the statement, was because she had lied in Parliament, correct?

[5686] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You mean the agreement —

[5687] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The 8 August meeting. The 8 August meeting.

[5688] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned to Minister Lee earlier on, my understanding on the 8 August meeting is to discuss about the statement to come out about the FGC and polygamy, that's all.

[5689] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[5690] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not privy to the other two parts where she's going to come and confess about a lie.

[5691] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, now I ask you to look at it as a person who attended the meeting.

[5692] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5693] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And who was there, and you said your eyes were on Ms Khan throughout.

[5694] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5695] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You remember? Okay. She comes forward and she makes two important disclosures, confessions, right? You agree both are important confessions, right?

[5696] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[5697] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, she has told her senior Party leaders that she has lied in Parliament.

[5698] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5699] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And there's no reaction whatsoever, right?

[5700] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think I've earlier shared with you the —

[5701] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. I'm looking at it now from this angle. There's no reaction whatsoever, right?

[5702] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** My answer would be similar to what I have said to you earlier, Mr Edwin.

[5703] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Please state the answer. There's no reaction, correct? The answer is yes or no.

[5704] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, overwhelmed by the first confession, yes.

[5705] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, there's no reaction, correct?

[5706] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Reaction to that part about lying, right?

[5707] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** About her lying, yes.

[5708] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. As I mentioned, we were overwhelmed, so —

[5709] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You said “zero” just now, right?

[5710] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

- [5711] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Didn't ask her a question about it, correct?
- [5712] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5713] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Didn't tell her what to do about it?
- [5714] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5715] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Didn't discuss details with her?
- [5716] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5717] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Didn't ask her why is it untrue?
- [5718] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5719] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Didn't discuss with her whether or not —
- [5720] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Nothing. Zero. As you mentioned earlier: zero.
- [5721] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay, thank you. So, from her perspective, she walks into a meeting with her senior Party leaders. She discloses and confesses to having lied in Parliament. There's zero reaction from her senior Party leaders. What do you think she will walk away with?
- [5722] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I cannot answer that on her behalf, but, again, if you go back to what she told Pei Ying and Yudhish, the WhatsApp that she sent after she left Pritam's, okay, she's more relating to them about she's being a Muslim, she's being a Muslim woman, and so —
- [5723] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. So, let's take the WhatsApp now. Okay, you are on the bundle that we saw earlier, page 23, right?
- [5724] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5725] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let's look at the WhatsApp. "Hey, guys, I just met with Pritam, Sylvia and Faisal." Do you have that?
- [5726] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I got it.
- [5727] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, this message, Mr Faisal, has got four lines.
- [5728] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5729] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** "Hey, guys. I just met with Pritam, Sylvia and Faisal." First line. It's true, right?
- [5730] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Met with me, Pritam and Sylvia.

- [5731] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This line is true, right?
- [5732] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [5733] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** “And we spoke about the Muslim issues and the Police accusation.”
- [5734] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, she confessed.
- [5735] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This line, also true, right?
- [5736] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, she confessed. The confession part.
- [5737] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but this statement is true, right?
- [5738] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You mentioned about “we spoke”, right? It's not “we spoke”. She's the one who told us. After that, we didn't speak about it.
- [5739] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. But with that qualification, it's true, right? "We spoke", meaning it came up.
- [5740] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, we spoke about the Muslim issues. And the Police accusation, as I mentioned just now, as I mentioned to you, “zero”. I disagree if she said it is “we spoke”. It's “she spoke”.
- [5741] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you are saying she spoke, but you didn't speak?
- [5742] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5743] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Subject to that qualification, this line is true, right?
- [5744] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again?
- [5745] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Subject to that qualification that she spoke and you didn't speak, based on your evidence, this line is true, right?
- [5746] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5747] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Next line: “I told them what I've told you guys, and they've agreed that the best thing to do is to take the information to the grave.” True or not true?
- [5748] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not true.
- [5749] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Next line: “They also suggested that I write a statement to send out this evening.” True?
- [5750] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** True.

[5751] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, let's look at it from your perspective. She goes into a meeting. She makes a confession. She follows up with an almost contemporaneous message to her close associates. And you are saying that her account of what she was told by you is untrue?

[5752] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again, her account of?

[5753] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Her account of what she was told to take the information to the grave is untrue.

[5754] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, it's untrue.

[5755] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Can you tell —

[5756] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin —

[5757] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, let me ask the questions. Can you tell me, Mr Faisal, why would Ms Khan lie to her friends?

[5758] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I do not know.

[5759] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you think of a good reason?

[5760] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't.

[5761] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You are her mentor.

[5762] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[5763] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[5764] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5765] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Why would she come out of the meeting almost —

[5766] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's why —

[5767] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me finish.

[5768] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5769] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Why would she come out of the meeting with you — come, made a confession, a very serious one, to her senior Party leaders, step out, almost immediately, send a message about what happened, and why would she lie? Why would she just give a one-line lie and the rest of the statement is correct? Can you think of a good reason?

[5770] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I cannot think of a good reason because, as I mentioned to you just now, she trusted me and I trusted her to do the real — to do what is correct. That's why I'm very perturbed when she came out with this statement to say that the best thing to do is to take the information to the grave.

- [5771] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but why would she lie, Mr Faisal? Why would she lie?
- [5772] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That is the reason I don't understand.
- [5773] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You think about it.
- [5774] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't think about it because I don't understand why she needs to utter this word. It didn't happen.
- [5775] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Think about it now, okay?
- [5776] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** There's nothing for me to think, Mr Edwin, because I can't understand where she —
- [5777] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Don't jump ahead, please, Mr Faisal. Let me ask the questions, okay? She volunteered the information that she lied.
- [5778] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She did, indeed.
- [5779] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You didn't find out before she told you, right?
- [5780] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5781] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. So, she went to a meeting with her most senior Party leaders – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary-General – and volunteered the information, confessed?
- [5782] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5783] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you accept that one reasonable interpretation of what she did on 8 August was to make a confession to her senior Party leaders and get guidance on what to do?
- [5784] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On her part, yes.
- [5785] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Fair, right?
- [5786] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Fair.
- [5787] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And as a young MP, barely a year in the Chamber, meeting with her most senior Party leaders, coming with a confession, it will be fair for her to expect that, going into the meeting, she will get guidance from the three of you, correct?
- [5788] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's correct.
- [5789] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On what to do and how to handle the problem, right?
- [5790] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's correct.

[5791] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she did this on her own volition. She stepped forward to confess on her own volition. She wasn't found out, right?

[5792] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She wasn't found out about?

[5793] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She wasn't found out by you or Mr Singh or Ms Lim, right?

[5794] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think based on the transcript, I believe that she did mention to Pritam on 7 August.

[5795] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but he didn't find out. She told him, right?

[5796] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That one you have to ask Pritam and ask Raeesah because I don't know what happened during their conversation.

[5797] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm only addressing the point because you seem to know your transcripts well and you know that it was brought up on 7 August. So, I'm simply saying that it was told to him, not that he knew first, right?

[5798] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I need to look at what was —

[5799] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But as far as you recollect; as far as you recollect.

[5800] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You mean that it's she who admitted to Pritam?

[5801] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[5802] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't have that information.

[5803] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, as far as you know —

[5804] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't have that information.

[5805] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, no. Mr —

[5806] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You asked me as far as I know. But I said I do not have the information.

[5807] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, don't worry, you know.

[5808] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not worried. I'm answering to your question, Mr Edwin.

[5809] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see, the reason why I start my questions with “as far as you know” is because I'm trying to ask you for your knowledge. I am not here to ask you to speculate.

[5810] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't have any doubt about that, Mr Edwin, but I'm answering to your question —

[5811] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, but you see, Mr Faisal, you cut me off before I even finished. I just said "as far as you know" and then you cut me off.

[5812] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, I'm sorry about that.

[5813] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. As far as you know, did Ms Lim find out about the lie or was she told for the first time at the meeting on 8 August?

[5814] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't know about that.

[5815] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But as far as you are concerned, you only knew on 8 August, right?

[5816] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5817] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And there is no suggestion on 8 August that either Ms Lim or Mr Singh – leave out Mr Singh for the time being. There's no suggestion on 8 August that Ms Lim knew about this lie before Ms Khan told her, right?

[5818] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again? Sorry about that.

[5819] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There's no suggestion on 8 August, at that meeting, that Ms Lim knew about the lie before 8 August?

[5820] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.

[5821] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, at least for the two of you, as far as you know, it was Ms Khan coming forward voluntarily, right?

[5822] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, as far as we know.

[5823] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, she's coming forward, making the confession. So, my question, again: why would she step out of this meeting and tell a lie to her closest associates? Can you think of a good reason?

[5824] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I have to repeat that I don't know. I don't have any good reason for me to think of because I didn't expect her to say all this. That's why I don't know. Mr Edwin, can I just bring you to the WhatsApp message?

[5825] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No. If you would like to clarify, I can give you some time later, but I would like to carry on with my line of questioning. Okay?

[5826] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[5827] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When she came to see you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim, and I think we agreed earlier that she was there, it's a reasonable assumption that she was there to get guidance and advice from the three of you, right?

- [5828] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Reasonable assumption, correct.
- [5829] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let's say, for the moment, we assume that there was zero discussion on this. Okay? Would you think that one takeaway by Ms Khan from the meeting will be that, "My senior Party leaders are not concerned at all about the lie"?
- [5830] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I cannot speak on her behalf.
- [5831] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No.
- [5832] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But the thing is that —
- [5833] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, Mr Faisal, I'm not asking you to speak on her behalf.
- [5834] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. But you're asking me whether do I think.
- [5835] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because, you see, we all agree that the common assumption is that she's coming to see you, make a confession, senior Party leaders —
- [5836] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, her assumption.
- [5837] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's reasonable, not her assumption, but it's reasonable for her to believe that she will get guidance and advice from you.
- [5838] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [5839] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, if you don't say anything, zero, no questions, no comments, don't tell her what to do, one reasonable takeaway for her is that her senior Party leaders are not concerned with the issue.
- [5840] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We did advise her about the [sexual assault] confession.
- [5841] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, Mr Faisal. Let me be clear. Let's focus on the lie to Parliament. Okay?
- [5842] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5843] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, one reasonable assumption by her would be that, "My senior Party leaders are not concerned with it", right?
- [5844] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She may have that assumption —
- [5845] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it would be a reasonable assumption, right?
- [5846] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, on her part, yes.
- [5847] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes?

- [5848] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5849] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because she told you a lie – rather, she told you that she told a lie in Parliament, very serious, and you don't say, “That's wrong”, you don't say, “Please correct it”, you don't say, “What happened?”, you don't say, “How do we fix it?”, you don't tell her to fix it, you don't tell her let's take steps to tell the CEC –
- [5850] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct, correct.
- [5851] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me finish. You don't tell anybody about it. You don't tell her anything.
- [5852] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5853] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it's a fair assumption on the part that my senior Party leaders actually think it's okay. Yes or no?
- [5854] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I would like to retract that. It's not a fair assumption, after thinking about it. She has the right to ask us, “Why aren't you all giving me advice on this confession that I've just made?”
- [5855] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You mean after I come to you and I said “I lied in Parliament” —
- [5856] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** After she came —
- [5857] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Hang on, let me finish.
- [5858] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5859] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** After I come to you and I said “I have lied in Parliament”, you don't say a thing, zero, and I then have the onus of asking, “What do we do?”
- [5860] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** If that's her intention of coming to see us, to seek guidance, after she told us she was [sexually assaulted] as the opening statement, I believe she still has the opportunity to ask, if that was her intention of coming, to ask us for our guidance. And why didn't she continue and ask us, “Hey, I have not got the guidance from you all regarding this particular issue?” That didn't happen.
- [5861] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that's your position, as a senior Party leader, all three of you?
- [5862] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned to you, we have to make a judgement on the three issues that have been confessed or being shared by Raeesah. Her well-being at that point in time is our priority.
- [5863] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I accept that, Mr Faisal. I accept that and I also applaud that, that her well-being is a priority. Okay?
- [5864] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, thank you.

[5865] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I also put to you that the three most senior members of the Workers' Party are present, she has come forward voluntarily, she's made two confessions. One, about her own experience and, two, which, we agreed, was the main confession, because without the second one, the first one would be irrelevant, that she lied in Parliament.

[5866] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5867] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You also agreed with me that it was reasonable for her to assume, in that context that she was in, meeting with the senior Party leaders, that it would be reasonable for her to assume that guidance would be given to her.

[5868] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's reasonable for her to assume, yes.

[5869] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But nothing was said to her, zero, right, you said?

[5870] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But she had chance to ask for clearance before she leaves. Because if that is her intention of her coming, to get guidance and she didn't get the guidance from us, she should ask. That's the purpose of the discussion, the purpose of the meeting, that we are open to listen, we are open to be asked by her, "Can you please guide me on what needs to be done?"

[5871] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But she's —

[5872] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But —

[5873] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, first of all, she's a young lady, and, secondly —

[5874] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But she's an adult, she's a mother of two.

[5875] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, she's a young lady, but —

[5876] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She's not young; she's 28. How do you define "young", Mr Edwin?

[5877] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I don't think we should get into that discussion. She is young. More importantly, as an inexperienced first-term MP.

[5878] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I agree.

[5879] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Coming to her seniors.

[5880] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** To seek guidance, yes.

[5881] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct. To seek and to get guidance.

[5882] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but we were quiet about it because we were overwhelmed by her confession of —

[5883] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** All three of you?

[5884] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Did she come to the point that, “Hey, I have not got guidance on this issue”? She didn’t do that. And instead, when she came out, the first thing that she mentioned to Ms Loh and Nathan, if you look further down, she was more of sharing her role. She said, “I thought about my role as a Member of Parliament”, this is a portion of her being affected by people, the social media comment on her, she’s more interested of sharing this part with the two of them and just one line stating that the best thing to do is to take information to the grave, and that’s what she shared with them on the issue of her coming to see us to seek guidance.

[5885] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, let me —

[5886] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Ended up she’s more interested in telling the two of them she felt she’s a Muslim woman.

[5887] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Very stoutly, right? She said that very strongly, very firmly, right?

[5888] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[5889] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, thank you. Let me give you a plausible explanation why she emerged from that meeting and she focused on this, okay?

[5890] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5891] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You pick up her evidence, Ms Khan’s evidence. This would be on 2 December. I think Mr Lee, my colleague, showed you this earlier. So, I think you refresh. You remember it. So, I’ll take you through it very quickly. Starting from the top line: “Who’s house?” “Mr Pritam Singh’s house.” Both —

[5892] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** This is on which page?

[5893] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Page 87.

[5894] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry.

[5895] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Sorry, I should have told you the page number.

[5896] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Thank you, Minister.

[5897] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You can take some time to read it quickly, if you like.

[5898] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, we’re good to go.

[5899] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Good to go? Okay. [*Minutes of Evidence; Hearing of 2 December 2021, from Para No 1499.*]

[5900] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5901] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, Mr Singh's house, Ms Lim, Mr Manap was present, "Was it put in clear terms that the statement you made was false?" Answer: "Yes." Could they have misunderstood?" "No, they could not." Pause for a moment. All this is true, right?

[5902] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, she did confess.

[5903] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Then it goes on: "What was their reaction?" Answer: "It was incredible disappointment, there was a lot of anger, but I think there was some compassion as well. The reaction was that if I was not to be pressed, then the best thing to do would be to retain the narrative that I began in August." Then I asked her some questions about what that means. She talked about Mr Pritam Singh's initial response and then how he changed his mind. And then right at the bottom, I said: "The upshot of the meeting a few days after 7 August", and this is actually the 8 August meeting, "was that the Workers' Party leadership decided that there would be no need to clarify the position, that they would keep the lie in place, since, if you're not pressed, there's no need to clarify the truth, correct?" Answer: "Correct." Pause for a moment, Mr Faisal. You want to read further? I'm okay if you want to.

[5904] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[5905] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Let me suggest to you why her immediate post 8 August meeting messages to her closest confidantes and associates were focused on the Muslim issues. On her account, she went to the meeting, she made her confession, she told you about her sexual assault experience, but she told that to you in the context of explaining how she learnt of the information, meaning the way the Police treated sexual assault victims. She also told you that the anecdote she told in Parliament was false. The three of you told her this lie about the false anecdote should not be told to anyone, should take it to the grave, in her words, but on the Muslim issue, issue a statement by "this evening".

[5906] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. That's her word.

[5907] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That would be her account of what happened. So, based on that alone, that means based on her account, Mr Faisal – I'm not asking you to base it on what you disagree with, but based on her account, okay – the messages that are exchanged immediately after 8 August would be entirely consistent with her account of what happened at the 8 August meeting, correct?

[5908] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Her account?

[5909] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, her account.

[5910] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, based on her account.

[5911] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, consistent with her account, right?

[5912] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, you're trying to say that these two portions are consistent?

[5913] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Consistent.

- [5914] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5915] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm trying to say that based on what she said happened on 8 August.
- [5916] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct. Yes.
- [5917] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Everything that happened thereafter in her private messages with her closest associates would be consistent with that, right? You understand?
- [5918] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't get that part.
- [5919] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That means I have just read to you her account of what happened.
- [5920] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5921] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm saying to you, take it on the basis of her account, what Ms Khan says.
- [5922] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.
- [5923] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The messages that we now see on the bundle between herself and her closest associates would be consistent with her account, right?
- [5924] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5925] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It would be consistent because, number one, she was told by the Workers' Party leadership to bury the matter, take it to the grave, "not talk about it if you're not pressed".
- [5926] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's her account.
- [5927] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Her account.
- [5928] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5929] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, you don't see any other discussion on this thereafter, correct?
- [5930] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5931] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Conversely, on the Muslim statement, clarification, she was told, "Put out a statement by this evening". And so, she proceeds to discuss with her associates what the Workers' Party leadership told her to do, which is to put out a statement, correct?
- [5932] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5933] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, in fact, for the rest of the day, as I've showed you earlier, she proceeds to prepare the draft, run the draft by you, discuss it with you. I think she cleared it with Mr Singh as well.

[5934] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5935] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then she posted it, right?

[5936] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5937] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, everything that she has done after the 8 August meeting is, in fact, consistent with her recollection of what happened at the meeting, right, her recollection?

[5938] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Her recollection, correct.

[5939] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And consistent with the WhatsApp that she sent to her friends at 12.41 pm on 8 August, correct?

[5940] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5941] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, I come back to this other point. She's now in a closed chat with her associates, people who had helped her, and she told us, and Mr Nathan and Ms Loh also told us that, in fact, she also confessed the lie to them. This, you may or may not know —

[5942] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay. I'm not aware of that.

[5943] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — if you had not seen the transcripts earlier. So, in that context, she has confessed it to her associates. Apart from her family, her husband, senior Workers' Party leadership, these are the only two other persons who are aware that she told a lie in Parliament, and she told them before she went to meet with you on 8 August.

[5944] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I believe so, I'm not aware of that. I believe so.

[5945] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm putting to you. I'm saying to you what they had said.

[5946] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[5947] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** She then comes to this meeting and you see her account of the meeting in the WhatsApp. In this context, with a closed group of associates in a closed message, not published anywhere, I go back to my original question, Mr Manap, Mr Faisal, I beg your pardon, I will try to remember. Why would she lie about this?

[5948] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's what I've been telling you from just now, Mr Edwin, that I do not know, and this is something which I don't understand about her. How could she tell such a grave lie to say that she was told by us to bring the information to the grave?

[5949] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But this is a contemporaneous record. Within minutes of coming out of the meeting, she sends this message.

[5950] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[5951] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Why would she lie?

[5952] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That is the same question that I need to ask her, why did she lie? I do not have that answer.

[5953] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, everything that she has done thereafter with her associates, as you yourself said, is consistent with her account of what happened, right?

[5954] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Her account.

[5955] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct, right, her account?

[5956] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, her account.

[5957] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And she's not telling it to the whole world, she's keeping it to a trusted group of people.

[5958] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[5959] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No reason to lie, right, in that context?

[5960] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't answer that because I really don't know why she lied. To be honest, when the news came out, she said that the three of us asked her to bring the information to the grave, I don't know how to react. I was, like, dumbfounded. She trusted me —

[5961] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, she did.

[5962] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — and I trusted her. Why did she do what she had done?

[5963] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Put it this way, Mr Faisal. would you agree that it is actually out of character for Ms Khan to lie, from what you know of her?

[5964] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, I don't judge. For me, being a counsellor, I always have these values that everybody is innocent unless proven guilty. I don't have any encounter with her before that, so I do not want to —

[5965] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, but you see, I'm not asking you from the perspective of someone who's counselling a client.

[5966] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, that's my value, basically.

[5967] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But on top of your values, you're also close with her, in the sense that, we've discussed earlier, you share religious messages with her, you encourage her, she looks up to you, she meets with you.

[5968] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5969] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In that context, Mr Faisal, you would accept that it is out of character for Ms Khan to lie?

[5970] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, I do not want to judge because I do not see her, the other side.

[5971] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, I'm not asking you to judge, I'm asking you for your —

[5972] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, correct.

[5973] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — personal opinion, your personal evidence, based on everything you know. I'm not asking you beyond that.

[5974] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand.

[5975] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on all of that only, it is out of character for her to lie, right?

[5976] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Right, yes, that's why I was very surprised and very stunned, very shocked that why she needs to say that we asked her to bring the information to the grave. I can't comprehend.

[5977] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You mentioned earlier that your next interaction about this matter or with Ms Khan was – or, rather, with Ms Khan on this matter, “matter” meaning the lie, okay, so we are clear – you understand me?

[5978] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The lie?

[5979] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me rephrase it. Let me know if I misunderstood you. Earlier on, in answer to Mr Lee's question, you said that 8 August, you parted ways?

[5980] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5981] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Zero was spoken about the lie.

[5982] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[5983] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you went off and you left it to Mr Singh and Ms Lim. And the next time you had anything to do with Ms Khan over the lie was on 29 October at the CEC meeting.

[5984] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

- [5985] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did I hear you correctly?
- [5986] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5987] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, when you were summoned to attend this CEC meeting, which I think is a special, unscheduled one, correct?
- [5988] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5989] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you ask yourself what it is about?
- [5990] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. Because I know there's a confession, right? So, I believe that it comes to the point where she wants to make a confession. Pritam didn't — basically, my understanding is that it was meant for her to confess.
- [5991] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meant for her to confess.
- [5992] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not to confess, to say what she was going to say, to present in Parliament.
- [5993] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But how did you know that she was going to present anything in Parliament as of that point in time?
- [5994] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I assumed that, basically, she has decided after what happened in Parliament on 4 October where she was asked by Minister Shanmugam. So, I believe that it has come to the point that she wants to share with the CEC, the assumption that she wants to come to the CEC and share with the CEC what she's going to state in Parliament on 1 November.
- [5995] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How did you know that?
- [5996] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Assumption.
- [5997] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, having heard nothing further, having heard her repeat the lie, or at least seen her repeat the lie in Parliament on 4 October —
- [5998] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [5999] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — why, out of the blue, would you assume, on 29 October, that now she would change tack and come clean?
- [6000] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I mentioned earlier that I put the trust in Pritam, and I know that she needs to come clean, she needs to make the clarification in Parliament. So, I assumed that that's the time when she wants to come to CEC, basically, to share.
- [6001] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** All that you learned without talking to anyone?
- [6002] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, based on my recollection.

[6003] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, now, based on your recollection, are you able to remember if you did discuss it with Ms Khan or with anyone else?

[6004] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I don't think so.

[6005] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You're sure?

[6006] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm sure.

[6007] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you need to check your sequence of events?

[6008] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, my sequence of events is very simple; it's not very detailed. I don't have that in my information.

[6009] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, if I hear you correctly, after you said goodbye on 8 August and was told about this very serious lie, very serious issue in Parliament, you had yourself zero involvement in this issue?

[6010] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6011] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Except hearing on 4 October that she continued to lie again, right?

[6012] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6013] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But somehow was able to, three weeks later, despite her repeating the lie on 4 October, three weeks later, you somehow realised that she was now going to come clean?

[6014] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** She was going to come clean, in that sense, yes.

[6015] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How did you know?

[6016] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because, as I mentioned to you earlier on that I trust Pritam, he will make this happen where —

[6017] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** When?

[6018] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, soon, but how soon is based on Pritam's judgement.

[6019] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, just based on trust?

[6020] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, as what I've mentioned earlier.

[6021] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, how did you know that, based on Mr Pritam's judgement, the time was now on 29 October —

[6022] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** How do I know? I don't know.

- [6023] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — that she would be ready to make the confession?
- [6024] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again?
- [6025] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see, I asked you about your involvement on 29 October.
- [6026] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6027] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you said that it was a meeting called for the CEC for her to explain her confession.
- [6028] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** To say what she wanted to say in Parliament, yes.
- [6029] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In other words, she is now ready to come clean, right?
- [6030] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6031] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, my question is: how did you know that? And you remember you answered me earlier on, when I asked you, before going to the meeting, did you know what it was about and you said it was for her —
- [6032] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, my assumption.
- [6033] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Your assumption?
- [6034] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6035] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, again, like your first assumption about Mr Singh handling the matter, this conclusion also relies on several assumptions, right?
- [6036] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, I can't follow you.
- [6037] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On 29 October, for you to form the view that this CEC meeting was for Ms Khan to come and explain that she will come clean in Parliament on the following Parliamentary Sitting, there will have to be a few assumptions, giving rise to that conclusion, right?
- [6038] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6039] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The assumptions are: first, Ms Khan, despite having repeated the lie just a few weeks ago, was now ready to take a completely different position.
- [6040] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6041] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The second assumption is that she is now ready to do so, bearing in mind your concerns over her mental readiness —
- [6042] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mental state.

- [6043] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — and mental state, right? Correct?
- [6044] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6045] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the third assumption is that Mr Singh would have made that assessment that she is now ready to do so, right?
- [6046] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6047] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, somehow you were able to come round with all these assumptions and form the correct view that she was ready to explain to the CEC that she was going to come clean in Parliament. Is that what you recollect?
- [6048] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, based on the assumption I have.
- [6049] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's quite a coincidence, right?
- [6050] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** This is what I recall. The truth, nothing but the truth.
- [6051] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Mr Faisal, on 4 October, you gave evidence earlier that you weren't in Chamber when —
- [6052] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6053] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — the exchange happened between Mr Shanmugam and Ms Khan, right?
- [6054] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [6055] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you learnt of it subsequently?
- [6056] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6057] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would have been shocked, right?
- [6058] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Shocked, yes.
- [6059] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?
- [6060] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Shocked about the exchange, yes.
- [6061] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. You would have been very worried, correct?
- [6062] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6063] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would have appreciated that this was a serious problem —
- [6064] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I did.

- [6065] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — for Ms Khan, right?
- [6066] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.
- [6067] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would have appreciated that the Workers’ Party was in trouble, correct?
- [6068] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6069] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, leaving aside your view or your confidence in Mr Singh that he would figure out when it’s the right time for Ms Khan to come clean, wouldn't you also be concerned that, “Hey, now, by this time, Ms Lim, Mr Singh, myself, are aware of information that will completely contradict what Ms Khan said in Parliament”, which she repeated several times.
- [6070] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6071] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which she continued to assert to the detriment of the Police and to the disadvantage of sexual assault victims. Right?
- [6072] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6073] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In that context, wouldn't you be concerned that by now, the Workers’ Party has to do something? Yes or no?
- [6074] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, the concern was there. But again, it is the trust that I have in Pritam that he will do the right thing. And I believe and I trust that Raeesah will do the right thing.
- [6075] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The trust in Mr Pritam Singh, was for her to make a judgement on when Ms Khan would come clean, right?
- [6076] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6077] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We discussed it earlier.
- [6078] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6079] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But now, I’m asking you a different question. From the Party’s perspective, knowing what you now know, wouldn't it be important to ensure that the Party is protected?
- [6080] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I believe that when Mr Pritam did —
- [6081] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes or no?
- [6082] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** When Mr Pritam did his judgement, he took into consideration the Party well-being as well as the member’s well-being, who is part of the Party and MPs of the Party.

[6083] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you see, Mr Faisal, you would have no knowledge of that because you had zero conversations with him.

[6084] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's why I say it's based on trust.

[6085] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, this is another one where you based it on trust and accepted it?

[6086] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6087] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That despite now yourself now being in, I would say, a difficult position yourself, you still felt that it was okay not to have to discuss it with Mr Singh?

[6088] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't feel I'm in a difficult situation now.

[6089] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Don't interrupt me. Don't interrupt. Let me finish. Let me rephrase. This is now, at this stage, on 4 October, despite yourself being in a difficult position, you still felt that it was okay not to discuss with Mr Singh?

[6090] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6091] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The reason I said you're in a difficult position, Mr Faisal, is this. Earlier on, you agreed with me that lying in Parliament —

[6092] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, Mr Edwin, I misconstrued you. I thought I'm in a difficult position right now.

[6093] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No.

[6094] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think you are referring back then, 4 October. Okay, I'm sorry about that.

[6095] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm sorry. I'm glad we cleared it up. But on 4 October. Okay.

[6096] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6097] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you agree that you were in a difficult position on 4 October, right?

[6098] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[6099] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because by now, unlike 3 August, you know that what was said in Parliament and reported widely in the press is false.

[6100] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6101] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We agreed earlier that lying in Parliament is bad and possibly an offence.

[6102] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[6103] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But allowing a lie to perpetuate in Parliament is also bad and possibly an offence, right?

[6104] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[6105] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that would affect you personally?

[6106] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[6107] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And Mr Singh and Ms Lim as well; right?

[6108] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6109] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Isn't it important to then make sure that this lie is then clarified?

[6110] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin —

[6111] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, answer my question. Isn't it important? I know you will say you trust Mr Singh, but —

[6112] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, indeed, indeed.

[6113] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But is it important?

[6114] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But it's linked to my trust in Mr Singh. I can't delink it.

[6115] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but there's no way you would have known if he was dealing with it and how, right? Aren't you the least bit interested in how it's going to be dealt with?

[6116] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That is the basis of trusting someone. We know he has the interests of – at heart, his interest is the Party. Raeesah needs to come clean. But he needs to make a judgement call. And, yes, I'm in a difficult position; not only me, Pritam, Sylvia, so was, I believe, Raeesah. But we have to make a judgement.

[6117] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you see, in August, your evidence is you left it entirely to him because you trusted him to make the judgement call on when she would be ready and when she would come clean.

[6118] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6119] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But I think you would agree with me that the dynamics have changed in October, by 4 October, right?

- [6120] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [6121] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because now, it is no longer one MP lying in Parliament. It is one MP lying in Parliament again, three other MPs from the same Party knowing that it is a lie; changed quite fundamentally, right? Agree?
- [6122] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, the changed part is —
- [6123] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The dynamics have changed. The circumstances have changed quite fundamentally, right?
- [6124] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct. Correct. Correct. That means we are in a more difficult situation, correct?
- [6125] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.
- [6126] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6127] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, don't you think it's important to speak up?
- [6128] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The submission is no. That we are in a difficult situation, but I still have trust in Pritam because I know that whatever Pritam is doing, any judgement call that needs to be made is to be done with proper consideration, taking into consideration of all aspects: the well-being of Raeesah, the well-being of the Party.
- [6129] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but I think we agreed earlier that you've never faced a situation in your political career where you've had to deal with a lie in Parliament by a fellow Party member, right?
- [6130] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed. Yes.
- [6131] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it's a new situation for you?
- [6132] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6133] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, now, on 4 October, you are directly involved.
- [6134] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6135] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And besides, I mean, Mr Faisal, leave aside whether you are directly involved, guilty of an offence or not, but don't you think that the honourable, transparent thing to do is to make sure that it comes out quickly? Yes or no?
- [6136] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The word “quickly” is again, to me, based on Pritam's judgement call, that he needs to make.
- [6137] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.
- [6138] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I do agree with you, Mr Edwin, can you allow me to say. We are indeed in a very difficult situation: myself, Pritam and Sylvia.

[6139] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. But that difficult situation was already difficult on 8 August when you came into possession of the information.

[6140] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, it's very difficult for us.

[6141] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But it is now worse, because it's now said publicly and in Parliament.

[6142] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, you're right. We're in a very difficult situation.

[6143] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm taking it as a matter of logic, okay?

[6144] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I understand.

[6145] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You have personal knowledge and I don't. As a matter of logic, in that situation, at a number of levels, you would want to make sure the information comes out as quickly as possible, right? That must be the case, correct?

[6146] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not as quickly as possible, but to the extent of what is best, when is the best time to come out —

[6147] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** For who?

[6148] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — because the judgement that needs to be made by Pritam based on the consideration that he has to take into, which is the well-being of Raeesah, the well-being of the Party. Yes, we have to be accountable to Parliament. So, he has to make that judgement and I trust him in making the right judgement. And when the time, the right time to basically have to put the record straight, I mean, correct the record in Parliament, for Raeesah to do so.

[6149] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. I can understand that in August. That's based on your evidence.

[6150] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6151] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because it's not been repeated and you are concerned about Ms Raeesah Khan. We are now at the time span which is two months later, almost eight weeks later. Okay?

[6152] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6153] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And in these eight weeks, according to you, zero, right? Nothing has been discussed.

[6154] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6155] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you have no idea whether Ms Khan is okay, not okay, ready, not ready, what was discussed and so on, according to you. But you then find out, because you're not in Chamber, that she's repeated the lie.

- [6156] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6157] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And we agreed earlier that this lie adversely affects the Police and sexual assault victims.
- [6158] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6159] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, in this context, as I said, leaving aside personal considerations, whether you're guilty of any offences, or whether there's any problem, but don't you think that, as a matter of openness and transparency, it would be important to bring out the clarification as soon as possible?
- [6160] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, but as soon as possible, the timing-wise, what is the best time is still back to the judgement call of Mr Pritam.
- [6161] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.
- [6162] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because he knows all the information that he has acquired and he knows the actual situation then.
- [6163] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay.
- [6164] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Of course, I feel very troubled, like what you mentioned just now, feeling more troubled as in August as compared to October, yes, but there must be a reason for Pritam not to be able to get Raeesah, but I don't know what's the reason was back then.
- [6165] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, when you saw on 4 October that she repeated the lie, you knew that there was a bigger problem than in August, right?
- [6166] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Naturally, because it is the second lie.
- [6167] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Naturally, right? So, did you then go and ask Pritam, "Hey, what's going on?"
- [6168] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [6169] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is she ready now to come clean?
- [6170] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I did not. I did not.
- [6171] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because there's still a Sitting on 5 October.
- [6172] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. I did not.
- [6173] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right. And why not?
- [6174] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I go back to the point, I trust Pritam. There must be certain things that he still needs to evaluate, or certain things that made him not to push Raeesah which I don't know what the reason was then.

[6175] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see, I almost understand, not entirely, but I almost understand why you might say Mr Singh would make an assessment of Ms Khan's state of readiness. But what is to stop you from asking Mr Singh what is happening?

[6176] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Trust. Trusting his judgement.

[6177] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you trust his judgement?

[6178] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6179] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If that is the case, why don't you just leave everything to him?

[6180] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In what way?

[6181] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Everything else: the way you run your Party, the way you run the CEC, the way you run your Aljunied GRC.

[6182] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We gave him the trust of becoming our Secretary-General to lead the Party, and we put the trust in him that he will make a good judgement. Right?

[6183] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And does that —

[6184] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And in the context of this case, he has the information, which I do not have.

[6185] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you make an attempt to find out the information?

[6186] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[6187] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Why not?

[6188] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Trust.

[6189] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You have your own duties, Mr Faisal.

[6190] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand that but that was my judgement call back then.

[6191] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And your duty as a Member of Parliament, never mind that you're a senior member of the Workers' Party, any Member of Parliament has a duty to ensure that no untruth remains on the record, right?

[6192] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's what we want to do.

[6193] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No. You have to do, right?

[6194] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.

[6195] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, when you knew that an untruth not only remained on the record for eight weeks, but was repeated on 4 October, several times, why didn't you do something about it?

[6196] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I know that the truth will come out. It's just that Pritam has to make a judgement, which I don't know what's stopping him, because I wasn't privy to what he has at that point in time.

[6197] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, why not ask?

[6198] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's what I mentioned to you just now. That was my judgement call which I based on trust. I know, logically, you may find it not acceptable, but that is my —

[6199] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, no, don't worry about me. Let me ask you. Logically, do you find it acceptable?

[6200] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logically, no, but that is me, the type of person I am. I don't go just by, sorry to say, by mere logic, because if I go by mere logic in Parliament, I will not bring out consistently things I've been trying to bring up in Parliament.

[6201] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Never mind about that.

[6202] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6203] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But let's focus on logic.

[6204] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6205] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You and I agree that, logically, what happened doesn't make sense, right?

[6206] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6207] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Logically, correct?

[6208] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6209] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There's just no logic in the sequence of events that I've just taken you through, right? Why you didn't ask, why you didn't find out whether she's ready, why you didn't find out whether the next day she could go out there and clarify.

[6210] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6211] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, meanwhile, you appreciated seriously, and I'm sure you do, your duty as a Member of Parliament to uphold Parliament and to ensure that there is no falsehood or untruth that remains on the record in Parliament, right?

[6212] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed. And this is what — sorry, can I add on?

[6213] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, to summarise, this is what goes against the logic, right?

[6214] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6215] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That you know that this is a problem at so many levels to your Party, to Ms Khan, to yourself, to your fellow leaders of the Workers' Party.

[6216] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm aware of that.

[6217] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What's the logic behind it?

[6218] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned to you —

[6219] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No logic, right?

[6220] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** From the perspective of —

[6221] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Logic?

[6222] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logic, yes, no logic. But can I explain?

[6223] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, please.

[6224] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And how I link, I would like to link — I don't know, it's going to be a bit time-consuming.

[6225] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Don't make it time-consuming.

[6226] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Let me tell you my values and my principles. When I was asked by Minister Shanmugam why I disagreed to separate politics and religion, I did mention that I can't separate because, logically, it can be separated. But spiritually, based on my values, it can't.

[6227] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Mr Faisal —

[6228] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's how I want to explain my part of — I do understand logically, per se, yes, but based on my values.

[6229] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, let's agree on this. Logically, you would agree that what has happened, your reaction, the fact that you didn't come clean earlier or you checked with Mr Singh about what's holding Ms Khan back, all that makes no sense, logically, right?

[6230] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6231] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, if you can please pick up the bundle of WhatsApp messages, not the big one that you see here. But earlier on, my colleague Mr Lee referred you to, I think, the thinner one, yes. And this is the one with your own messages there.

- [6232] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I need to check first.
- [6233] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. Do you have it?
- [6234] **The Chairman:** While we're flipping through this, can I just ask a quick question? Mr Faisal Manap, you are saying that you based this on trust. I just want to understand the consistency on which you approached this, as a senior member in the Workers' Party.
- [6235] If this, which is a very major issue, you, in the course of the many weeks did not ask, did not inquire, did not discuss because you trusted Mr Singh to deal with this, is that the same approach you take with every other issue? You basically don't need to ask, don't need to clarify? Everything, you just hand it to Mr Pritam Singh?
- [6236] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's what I mentioned just now. It's a judgement call for this particular context.
- [6237] **The Chairman:** Not in this particular context. I'm trying to understand the consistency of your principle. Because if you trust him on such a sensitive and difficult issue, then every other issue, there's actually no need to discuss or raise your points. You just let it be. Is that how you approach it?
- [6238] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [6239] **The Chairman:** So, why is it different in this case?
- [6240] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I have my own principles and my own values in life. In this case, based on my principles and values —
- [6241] **The Chairman:** So, in this case, even though it may not seem logical, you're prepared to just trust him and not ask, not clarify, even though on a broader principle basis, as a parliamentarian, accountability to the Parliament, to the Party, critical issue, there's no need to ask. But other issues, you might discuss and you might raise questions?
- [6242] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because of the sensitivity of the issue, the difficulty of the issue, the challenging circumstances of the issue that we're facing, so my judgement call is to leave it to Pritam, because he has more information.
- [6243] **The Chairman:** So, would you agree that, as an average person listening in to this conversation, as mentioned, this would not seem logical?
- [6244] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6245] **The Chairman:** Understand. Thank you.
- [6246] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, you have the bundle now?
- [6247] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I do.
- [6248] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** These are your messages with Ms Khan. Let me ask you to turn to page 11. [*A message was referred to.*]

- [6249] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I'm at page 11 now.
- [6250] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I would like you to focus on somewhere in the top one-third of the page. Do you see 10/5? That's 5 October.
- [6251] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 10/5, okay.
- [6252] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see that?
- [6253] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6254] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's a message from you. The preceding message, the last message on record, was 29 September. So, this was a chain you initiated and you say on 5 October, at 2.44 pm: "Assalamu Alaikum. Stay strong, Sis. Allah will always be with those who are in need of his assistance. Do regularly turn to him. And any time you need views and opinions, Insha Allah, I will set aside time." That's your message, right, which you initiated?
- [6255] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6256] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What prompted this message?
- [6257] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think because of the 3 October Parliament session, I believe so.
- [6258] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It was 4 October.
- [6259] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, 4 October, yes. Because I didn't respond, I didn't give any encouragement on 4 October. So, on 5 October, I kind of WhatsApped her to give her this encouragement.
- [6260] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, let's agree on a few things. First of all, you are in, you are able to be in direct communication with Ms Khan.
- [6261] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6262] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There's no question about that, right? And so, if you wanted to, you would be able to ask her a direct question concerning clarification of a lie in Parliament, right?
- [6263] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6264] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But which you don't do?
- [6265] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6266] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you accept that not talking to Ms Khan and asking her a question about the lie in Parliament and when she will clarify, is consistent with the WhatsApp message that she sent after 8 August, from the meeting? Her account?

[6267] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again? I don't get the link of what transits to 8 August.

[6268] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. You remember we went through the WhatsApp message that she sent to Mr Nathan and Ms Loh after 8 August, right?

[6269] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yeah, it's the one regarding bringing the information to grave.

[6270] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's right. So, I told you that there were four sentences, you disagreed with one of them, right?

[6271] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6272] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** As I said to you just now, take it on the basis of her account, okay? So, I'm asking you to assume Ms Khan's account. Based on Ms Khan's account, if she's right, we will not expect to see any discussion on the falsehood, correct?

[6273] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Based on her account, based on her understanding?

[6274] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on her understanding.

[6275] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6276] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would you agree?

[6277] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, can you repeat one more time just to make sure?

[6278] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, she has had a meeting with you. She came out of the meeting and sent a WhatsApp message with an account of what happened, and she says that you plus Ms Lim and Mr Singh told her to take the information to the grave, right?

[6279] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6280] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on that account, it would be consistent not to see any further discussion on the falsehood, on the false anecdote, correct?

[6281] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The impression that she has?

[6282] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on her account, yes.

[6283] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6284] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?

[6285] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6286] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that's why we don't see any discussion between you and her on the lie or on attempts to go to Parliament to clarify the lie, correct?

[6287] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Based on her —

[6288] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on her account.

[6289] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** — understanding of that account?

[6290] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[6291] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6292] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In other words, the fact that there's an absence of any discussion on the lie in your discussions with Ms Khan is consistent with her account, correct? Her account.

[6293] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Her account?

[6294] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[6295] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Her impression?

[6296] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Her impression.

[6297] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6298] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?

[6299] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6300] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so here, on 5 October, you are initiating a discussion with her?

[6301] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6302] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And this must have arisen as a result of her speech or the responses she gave in Parliament the day before to Minister Shanmugam's questions, right?

[6303] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I believe so.

[6304] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you'll remember, in fact, on 4 October itself, and definitely on 5 October, there were a number of press reports which reported that incident, that exchange.

[6305] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6306] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And there were some reports which suggested that perhaps Ms Khan actually does not have the details to share, correct?

- [6307] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** What details are you —
- [6308] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meaning, to be more direct, there were some reports which suggest that perhaps Ms Khan was not telling the truth, correct?
- [6309] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You mean, whether I'm aware of that?
- [6310] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. It's all public information, correct?
- [6311] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. The media reports.
- [6312] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The media reports.
- [6313] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6314] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, there must have been pressure on Ms Khan as a result of that, correct?
- [6315] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6316] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?
- [6317] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6318] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so your message is really a reaction to that, to try to comfort her, correct?
- [6319] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, comfort in terms of what happened, the exchange between her and Minister Shanmugam.
- [6320] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If you read this message that I have just showed you, it's a comforting message, right?
- [6321] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, indeed.
- [6322] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meant to show support to her, right?
- [6323] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Right.
- [6324] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meant to reach out to her to say you are there for her, "If you need views or opinions, I'll make time for you", right?
- [6325] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6326] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, it's a response to what she said in Parliament and the adverse reaction that she got?
- [6327] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The exchanges that she had with Minister Shan.

[6328] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's right, and also the way in which the press reported the account, correct?

[6329] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The second part may not be the motivation for me to send that particular message. It's more of the first part that, her exchange. I know it's tough to have exchanges with Minister Shan. Recently, I had one, a tough one.

[6330] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We don't have to go into that.

[6331] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Just to explain that I can – that's the reason why I tried to comfort her, to give her the word of comfort.

[6332] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, but a day later, she then reaches out to you and says, "Are you free to meet today?" You see that?

[6333] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6334] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And basically you tracked it down and conclude that you didn't meet on 6 October, but you met on 7 October, right?

[6335] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6336] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You did meet on 7 October, right?

[6337] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed. Yes.

[6338] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it was just the two of you?

[6339] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6340] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What was discussed?

[6341] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned earlier to Minister Lee, when I suggested to her to talk to her parents between 3 and 4 August, and due to the issue of polygamy and FGC —

[6342] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But that's in August.

[6343] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct, correct, it is linked to that part. Because initially I offered to talk to her parents, but initially she said, "Okay," and then she declined and said her parents okay. And then subsequently, not subsequently, but the next message that I received from her after she said that I don't need to come to her house, she mentioned that, "I do need to see you to seek some advice" regarding wearing of hijab. Meaning she wants to wear hijab, but she felt that she don't know how the impression would be on the community, in terms of like she's a public figure and she may go to Parliament without hijab and when she's on her own she will be donning the hijab. So, I told her that, "At any time, I'm open for to you contact me and we can discuss." So, that didn't take place. Only on 7 October, then we continued on that.

[6344] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you met on 7 October?

- [6345] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6346] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But that time, you knew that she had repeated the falsehoods in Parliament, right?
- [6347] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6348] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you saw the press reports about that, right?
- [6349] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6350] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The issue of the falsehoods didn't come up in your discussions with her?
- [6351] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [6352] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You didn't ask her about it?
- [6353] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [6354] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That would be unusual, right?
- [6355] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logically.
- [6356] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, again, it would be logical to ask her about it, right?
- [6357] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but at that point in time, I don't have the intention to ask. Because, as mentioned earlier on, that is a sensitive issue, so many things at stake. So, that is my concern and that is my judgement call again that I leave it between her and Pritam to make that decision.
- [6358] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but to have a meeting with her, right, a few days after this occasion in Parliament, and you, yourself, agreed with me earlier that by 4 October, dynamics have changed, it's become more serious —
- [6359] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, indeed.
- [6360] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** A lot more is at stake.
- [6361] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6362] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And a lot more harm has been caused to Parliament, to the Police, to sexual assault victims. Are you saying that that never figured in your conversation?
- [6363] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, I need to lead you back to the point where I said that I have trust in Pritam. Okay, I trust her because she trusted me, so I trust she's going to do the right thing. The issue is a very sensitive issue, many things at stake, so I leave it; my judgement back then is to let Pritam and Ms Khan to make that decision.

- [6364] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Again, I come from not having direct knowledge like you, okay? But we do have to make findings and work out facts, right?
- [6365] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I understand, I understand.
- [6366] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, excuse me for asking you more questions on this.
- [6367] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No worries.
- [6368] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, to start from 8 August, this is an issue that Ms Khan had come to you and confessed she told a lie in Parliament?
- [6369] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6370] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You trusted Pritam to handle it. But by 4 October, you must realise that the problem had become worse.
- [6371] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6372] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not getting any better, right?
- [6373] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6374] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you had no idea when, if at all, there would actually be a clarification, right?
- [6375] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No idea, but I know it will come.
- [6376] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But it didn't come on 5 October.
- [6377] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6378] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which is the next Sitting day.
- [6379] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6380] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You then in the knowledge of all this, realised that Ms Khan has a difficult session in Parliament, you sent her a message. There was some speculation in the press that she was not telling the truth, which you know, is the case.
- [6381] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6382] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In that context, it would be logical to discuss it with her, right?
- [6383] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, basically —
- [6384] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes or no, first. Then, you can explain.
- [6385] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logically, yes.

[6386] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, which means it's just illogical that you didn't even raise this with her at all, right?

[6387] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** From the perspective of many, yes, it seems to be illogical, yes.

[6388] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You would accept that from the perspective of many, your behaviour with her is just illogical, right?

[6389] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6390] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Then can you offer us one reason why, besides the fact that you trust Mr Singh, which you have told us.

[6391] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's the only reason that I have, that's the reason. Because at the end of the day, if she comes to me and she is troubled by what has happened in the past few days, she would ask me, "Faisal, what do you think about what I need to do" Isn't it illogical for her not to do that? She knows I'm her confidante, but she chose not to do it. If she chose not to do it at that point in time, I believe that she must have worked with Pritam on certain things.

[6392] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you chose not to ask her at —

[6393] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[6394] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — even though by 4 October, you have a personal interest in it, Mr Faisal.

[6395] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, indeed. I said I was in a difficult situation, but I believe that trusting her that she knows the right thing to do, and Pritam, I know that he needs to do the right thing. Based on that trust, I leave the matter to them. And, again, as I mentioned that if Raeesah were to ask me during that 7 October meeting, I will openly talk about it, but she didn't. So, I assume at that point in time, that there's no need for us to talk about it because she doesn't want to talk about it. If it's very pressing for her to talk about it, as you know that she trusted me, as mentioned by Minister Lee, she would have come and talked to me about it on 7 October.

[6396] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you agree that she trusted you?

[6397] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, no, this what she mentioned. Before that, I don't know her level of trust in me but it was, I read somewhere in the transcript, that she trusted me.

[6398] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm asking from your perspective. She trusted you?

[6399] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6400] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, your point is that if she wanted to talk about it, she will raise it?

- [6401] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6402] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Just as if she needed advice on 8 August, she would ask?
- [6403] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6404] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the fact that you're a senior Party leader is not relevant? And if she doesn't ask, you just will not give the advice?
- [6405] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Just to give you a bit of background about how I do my counselling, because I'm a person-oriented counsellor —
- [6406] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Fine, fine. But please answer the question first, and then you explain.
- [6407] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yeah. Sorry, sorry, your question is?
- [6408] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the fact that you're a senior Party leader is irrelevant? And if she had not asked, you would not give the advice?
- [6409] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, based on my values of, if the thing is not being brought up. In counselling, at times you need to work with the issues that are being presented. So, again, we come to the point that that's again a judgement call. I shared with you that if she needs my advice on what happened on 4 October, 5 October, she would have voiced out to me because she trusted me. She has full trust in me, as mentioned in this document here.
- [6410] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan told us that between the Workers' Party MPs, there's a group chat.
- [6411] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6412] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?
- [6413] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6414] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Was this issue discussed in the group chat?
- [6415] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** What issue?
- [6416] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of her clarification and her lie in Parliament.
- [6417] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On 4 October?
- [6418] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No.
- [6419] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The clarification that happened on 4 October?

[6420] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At any time, was this discussed on the group chat between the Workers' Party MPs?

[6421] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can only recall on 4 October, after the exchange with Minister Sham and Ms Khan, there is no discussion on this, in the chat.

[6422] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Before or after?

[6423] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Looking at the time, I believe that — because I need to check my presence in the Parliament on 4 October, right, so, I kind of looked at 4 October; it was silence.

[6424] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No. Before or after 4 October, was this issue of Ms Khan's lie in Parliament ever discussed or raised in the group chat that you have with other Workers' Party MPs?

[6425] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can only attest that after 4 October, there is no more discussion, on that particular day.

[6426] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What about before 4 October?

[6427] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't recall.

[6428] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At any time, was there a discussion?

[6429] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can't recall.

[6430] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You can't recall. You mean, on an issue like this that is so important, you can't recall if it was discussed on a group chat?

[6431] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I know it's very important, but there's so many things, how many WhatsApp groups that we have. So many things. I think you need to be fair to me that, I'm not trying to mislead the Committee, but when I say I can't recall means I can't recall, because too many things happening.

[6432] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You also have a group chat with senior WP leaders, amongst yourselves?

[6433] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** What do you mean by senior WP leaders?

[6434] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm asking you whether you have one, CEC members or a subset of CEC members?

[6435] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** If you want to know whether there's a discussion on this, okay —

[6436] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, no, don't pre-empt.

[6437] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I'm not pre-empting. You're asking something which is not related. Why is there a need to know whether do I have a WhatsApp group with senior MPs that kind of thing, whereas I'm telling you, Mr Edwin, that there is no discussion on this.

[6438] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Don't pre-empt my question. Is there a WhatsApp group chat between you and senior members of the Workers' Party team?

[6439] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** WhatsApp group on?

[6440] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** On parliamentary matters, matters which affect the Party, anything.

[6441] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Can you list what you mean by "senior"? I need to know.

[6442] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Groups which include either Mr Singh and/or Ms Lim.

[6443] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** On this issue?

[6444] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, I said on any issue. Party matters, parliamentary matters.

[6445] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[6446] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You have no such group chat?

[6447] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, only the MPs' group chat. You're talking about me, Pritam and Sylvia, just the three of us. In general, we don't have.

[6448] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Are the three of you on chats which include other members of the Workers' Party?

[6449] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Mr Edwin, I need to know what is the relevance of you're asking? Because I'm disclosing something which is confidential to us.

[6450] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm am asking because — I'll explain this and I will let Mr Chairman decide whether it's relevant.

[6451] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6452] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** There is a distinct lack of occasions where you can give evidence. There is a paucity of evidence. It's not much based on your recollection. And I'm simply asking whether it was discussed. And I believe I'm entitled to because you, yourself, have accepted that it goes against logic not to have raised this, not to have asked questions.

[6453] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6454] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, I think I'm entitled to ask it, but I'll let Mr Chairman decide.

[6455] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's why I said —

[6456] **The Chairman:** If I may add, I think these are fair questions. We are not asking on the topics that may be sensitive, on other issues and to divulge them but we are asking for whether such groups exist and whether this particular topic has been discussed. So, these are fair questions.

[6457] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can answer on the part of, it's not being discussed.

[6458] **The Chairman:** Maybe you answer specifically to the questions raised as to the type of groups available and so we take it from there.

[6459] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** So, as I said, the group in the context of this particular issue, no.

[6460] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. The fact that there's no discussion at all after this was disclosed to you by Ms Khan on 8 August, would also be consistent with her account of what happened on 8 August, correct?

[6461] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again can you repeat, Mr Edwin?

[6462] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I've asked this question before in the context of a different subject matter, but let me repeat it. The fact that there's just no discussion at all, and I'm paraphrasing your own evidence, Mr Faisal, is entirely consistent with Ms Khan's recollection of what she was told on 8 August, correct?

[6463] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't really get your question, but I want to say that there's nothing that happened on 8 August as claimed by Ms Khan who said that we asked her to take the information to the grave. So, there's no need for a discussion between us on this.

[6464] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, let me rephrase my question and please answer the question. Don't frame a different question and then say that you can't answer it. Listen carefully.

[6465] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry.

[6466] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I think that you'll know that I've asked this question before. So, let me put it to you again. The fact that there's simply no discussion at all, and, as I said, I'm paraphrasing your evidence. You were very vehement in saying that there was no discussion at all earlier?

[6467] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6468] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The fact that there's no discussion at all is entirely consistent with Ms Khan's recollection of what she was told on 8 August, correct? And I'm

asking you to say this, answer this question in the context of the assumption that Ms Khan's version is correct, as I did earlier.

[6469] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Ms Khan's assumption is correct? Okay, based on Ms Khan, yes.

[6470] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?

[6471] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The impression that Ms Khan going to get out of this, right.

[6472] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on her account of what happened, answer this question. You understand?

[6473] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't.

[6474] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Actually, you've answered it before, but let me try again.

[6475] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because I did have the same difficulty when you asked me this.

[6476] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but you eventually understood what I was saying, and I think it's the same point, but now in the context of discussions between Workers' Party MPs, but let me try again. There was a meeting on 8 August, right?

[6477] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6478] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Ms Khan has produced an account of what happened at the meeting and she says that she was told to take the information to the grave, right?

[6479] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's her account, yes.

[6480] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's her account.

[6481] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[6482] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And when I say "her account", this is what I mean. Okay?

[6483] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6484] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That means her understanding and her evidence and account of what happened on 8 August, okay?

[6485] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct, correct.

[6486] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on her account, this is the premise I want you to adopt. Let me ask my question. The fact that there's simply no discussion at all between the

Workers' Party MPs on the question of the lie or the clarification of the lie is entirely consistent with Ms Khan's recollection and her account of what happened on 8 August, correct?

[6487] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay. Can I just clarify that she assumed that, you know —

[6488] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm asking you to assume that she's correct.

[6489] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6490] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Agree?

[6491] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Agree.

[6492] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That's all I'm saying. I'm not trying to trick you, Mr Faisal.

[6493] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, no, I don't have that in mind, Minister. I just have difficulty in understanding at times.

[6494] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Pardon me. If you have any difficulty at any time, just stop me. I'll explain.

[6495] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed. That's what I did.

[6496] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, just so I'm clear, based on Ms Khan's account, assuming that's true, the fact that there's no discussion at all about the lie or the clarification of the lie, that would be consistent with Ms Khan's account.

[6497] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6498] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Of what happened on 8 August; right?

[6499] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6500] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, earlier on Mr Lee asked you some questions about the Disciplinary Panel.

[6501] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6502] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you remember? I want to ask you some questions about it, okay? You had said this earlier, and I just want to see whether I noted it down accurately or not. You had said that the DP was focused on matters from 8 November to 29 November. The 8 November is because that's the first day that you sat to receive any evidence, correct?

[6503] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6504] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did I hear you correctly?

- [6505] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct, from 8 to 29 November.
- [6506] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which means that anything and everyone who appeared before you and gave you evidence, that has got to be considered, right?
- [6507] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6508] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And earlier on, you mentioned to Mr Lee that questions about your own role, including your knowledge from Ms Khan on 8 November, those are not relevant because they fall outside of the period.
- [6509] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [6510] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Is that your evidence?
- [6511] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6512] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And when you say that, you are trying to explain that all that's relevant is what people come and tell you, "people" meaning those who are relevant for you and those that you call members, activists, volunteers.
- [6513] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And plus Ms Khan.
- [6514] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And Ms Khan?
- [6515] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6516] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it's not relevant that you, yourself, with Ms Lim and Mr Singh, were actually privy to the information before you sat on the DP?
- [6517] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry, again? Can you repeat that part?
- [6518] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You're saying it's not relevant that you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim were privy to information directly from Ms Khan and she had confessed to you earlier. You're saying that's not relevant.
- [6519] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Relevant to?
- [6520] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To the issues you need to decide, the recommendations you want to make, the kind of punishments and sanctions you want to impose on Ms Khan.
- [6521] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6522] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not relevant?
- [6523] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6524] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you agree that the DP has a duty to be upfront, truthful, open and honest?

- [6525] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6526] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the DP should be in no position to decide on matters in which it has its own interests in, where there is a conflict, correct?
- [6527] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We don't decide. We make a recommendation to the CEC.
- [6528] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but you can't even make a recommendation on a matter on which you have a conflict, correct?
- [6529] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You can make a recommendation based on what has been presented to us between 8 November and 29 November.
- [6530] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You can't make a recommendation on a matter where you, yourself, have an interest, correct?
- [6531] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** What kind of interest do I have in this?
- [6532] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Generally. I'm asking you a general question.
- [6533] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** If it's generally, yes.
- [6534] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You agree?
- [6535] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But in this context, I don't have any interest, personal interest.
- [6536] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you agreed with me earlier that telling a lie in Parliament is wrong.
- [6537] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6538] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But allowing a lie to carry on in Parliament is also wrong, correct?
- [6539] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6540] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And at least in the latter category, you could be investigated as well, right?
- [6541] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6542] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, would Mr Singh and Ms Lim, right?
- [6543] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. In general, yes.
- [6544] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you have an interest in the matter directly, correct?

[6545] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** What kind of interest? Can I seek clarification?

[6546] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What I just said. You could be investigated yourself

[6547] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.

[6548] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — for not allowing a lie to be clarified, right?

[6549] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6550] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If that is the case, don't you think you have a conflict of interest in sitting on the DP?

[6551] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I don't.

[6552] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Why?

[6553] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because the DP represents what has been presented to us by Ms Raeesah and she has the opportunity to inform us on 8 November, "Why did you all ask me to take the information to the grave?" Right? So, she has all the opportunity that she has to state this and, as the DP, we have to bring it up to the CEC.

[6554] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me put it another way, Mr Faisal. Again, on the assumption that Ms Khan's account is correct, okay? You understand me so far?

[6555] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** The account of her saying that we asked her to bring the information to the grave?

[6556] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, on 8 August.

[6557] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6558] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. If she is correct, then two things could arise from that: one, we can understand her behaviour and her conduct on 4 October, right?

[6559] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6560] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because she is not disclosing the truth and if she is right in her account, she's been told to bury the truth, right?

[6561] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6562] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, that would be consistent with what she did on 4 October in Parliament, correct, based on her account?

[6563] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Based on her account, correct.

[6564] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The second thing is that the people who told her to bury the truth would be yourself, Mr Singh and Ms Lim, if she is correct, right?

[6565] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** If she is correct, yes.

[6566] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, isn't that a relevant factor for consideration by the DP?

[6567] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, the thing is that we only got to know that she said that we asked her to take the information to the grave is, on her information or her disclosure to the Committee of Privileges.

[6568] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes.

[6569] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. But prior to that, we didn't know that she has that in mind or whatever triggered her to do so.

[6570] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. But you do know from the start that you have personal knowledge —

[6571] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[6572] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — beginning from 8 August, directly from Ms Khan, right?

[6573] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[6574] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?

[6575] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct, but we don't have the knowledge of her making the WhatsApp accusing us of asking her to bring the information to the grave. So, when we formed the DP, I don't feel any conflict of interest because we didn't tell her that.

[6576] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. Fair enough.

[6577] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6578] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me explain to you why I'm putting this point to you. You have direct knowledge of the account from her, right?

[6579] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[6580] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** As far as you are concerned, you know that it's been disclosed to yourself, Mr Singh and Ms Lim.

[6581] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6582] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You didn't hear this come out in Parliament on 4 October, meaning there was no clarification, correct?

- [6583] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct, correct.
- [6584] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You have no idea what Mr Singh told Ms Khan or why Ms Khan didn't disclose it, right?
- [6585] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [6586] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It could well be that she was told to bury it, right?
- [6587] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Based on what she related to them.
- [6588] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because you don't know anything now, right?
- [6589] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6590] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Possible. It could be that she was told to do so but she refused?
- [6591] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6592] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If you have direct personal knowledge and spoke to Ms Khan and, in your words, Mr Singh is responsible for guiding Ms Khan on when to make the disclosure, and you know that the disclosure was not made on 4 October, don't you think those are relevant facts which the DP must consider?
- [6593] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Consider in terms of whether it's a conflict of interest?
- [6594] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Well, first of all, whether it's a conflict of interest for you to sit in judgement of that.
- [6595] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [6596] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, secondly, whether or not you're able to, in an unbiased fashion, make a judgement on Ms Khan. You understand my question?
- [6597] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, but it links back to the point, as we have discussed, that, initially, I told her not to resign. Right?
- [6598] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You told her not to resign, right?
- [6599] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, it is stated here.
- [6600] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because you felt that she could carry on. Right?
- [6601] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, so I don't see what is the conflict of interest, let's say if in a situation where I'm part of the DP and it conflicts with the point that she may feel that she's being told to bring the matter to the grave. Sorry, I just don't get the link.

[6602] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Do you agree that it is important to be open and let your members know that, actually, Ms Khan had, on her own accord and voluntarily, come to confess to you?

[6603] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed, yes, but the timing-wise —

[6604] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Wait, let me finish. Do you agree that that would be relevant for your members to know?

[6605] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not only my members – all, and it needs to be done in Parliament.

[6606] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, it's got to be done publicly, right? You've got to tell the public that, "Hey, Ms Khan came to confess to the senior leadership of the Workers' Party and it is not as if she continued to lie on 4 October on her own without the knowledge of everybody else"?

[6607] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't think it's right and I strongly feel it's not right for me to come out, open, whereas she was the one who said the lie in Parliament. She needs to make the record proper herself. I think that's the noble thing to do, respectable thing for me to do.

[6608] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It's a different point, Mr Faisal. Whether she clarifies in Parliament, I understand your point, it's for her to do. I think that's the thrust of the press statement that you all made on 2 December last week.

[6609] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6610] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You were there, right?

[6611] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6612] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The question is a different one. You are now a member of the DP, correct?

[6613] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6614] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You're asking members to come and give an account to you, right?

[6615] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6616] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** This includes what you should do to Ms Khan, right?

[6617] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6618] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It includes whether to expel her or not, right?

[6619] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6620] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It includes what other kind of punishment to sanction on her, if not expulsion, correct?

[6621] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6622] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, the nature of her conduct is important, right?

[6623] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6624] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And whether she was persistent in her lie or whether she sought the guidance of senior leadership and told them is relevant, right?

[6625] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Relevant to?

[6626] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** To the level of sanction or punishment that you would recommend. Agree?

[6627] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6628] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that's precisely what at least two activists, Mr Nathan and Ms Loh, told you when they came before the panel and made a submission to you, right?

[6629] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** To me? Sorry, told me what?

[6630] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You, as a member of the DP.

[6631] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6632] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct? Do you understand my question?

[6633] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't get that part.

[6634] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You are a member of the DP?

[6635] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6636] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** We agreed earlier that you would be inviting questions and submissions from members, activists, volunteers of the Workers' Party, right?

[6637] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6638] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, so, two of those members, senior members, cadre members, Mr Yudhishtira Nathan and Ms Loh Pei Ying, they came to the DP, right? Correct?

[6639] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6640] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And they made a submission to the DP that the DP should be honest and open and disclose its own level of involvement, correct?

- [6641] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Disclose to?
- [6642] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The public and the members.
- [6643] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But the DP is investigating the issue, and we will present what is the finding that we have to the CEC and that is our responsibility to the Party. We have to present it.
- [6644] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Can you pick up 2 December transcript and turn, please, to page 51.
- [6645] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry?
- [6646] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay? So, this is Ms Loh's evidence and she told us that she went before the DP on 25 November and you were present at the DP. Right?
- [6647] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6648] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Go over the page to page 52. In the middle of the page – sorry, the top one-third of the page, Ms Loh Pei Ying, she says, “We came prepared with quite a number of points.” You see that?
- [6649] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6650] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** “The first point, we had a feeling that one of the decisions they might make would be to expel Ms Khan from the Workers' Party.” You see that?
- [6651] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6652] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Next section: “One of the reasons I gave was everybody makes mistakes. While hers was very severe, other WP MPs have also made mistakes, and that expelling her would set a very bad precedent.”
- [6653] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6654] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And then she goes on and said this, and I want you to focus on this paragraph: “I also told them that the CEC, and especially the DP, should tell the public the true timeline of events which I have shared here today, that when they knew, what courses of action they took. I told them, ‘You should make this public knowledge, barring confidential and personal information’.” You remember this submission to the DP?
- [6655] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I think, yes.
- [6656] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes?
- [6657] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6658] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Go further down the page. I suggested to her that: “The reason you raised that is because it would be in the spirit of frank, open, transparent and

—” And she says, “Yes, I believed that.” I said, “And that is necessary for the people in the public to know.” She says, “I fully agree with that.” You remember that submission by Ms Loh to you?

[6659] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6660] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you accept it?

[6661] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Meaning that the public needs to know then when we are doing the investigation of the —

[6662] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, of course.

[6663] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** But we had not come to a conclusion what are the information —

[6664] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You see, the members are coming to you to give you suggestions on what to do with Ms Khan —

[6665] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed. But —

[6666] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Let me finish. How can you expect that these members will give you an informed view or opinion, if they don’t know that Ms Khan had come to you, confessed fully? How can they give you an unbiased, full and frank opinion? Right? Do you understand now where I’m coming from?

[6667] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I understand where you’re coming from, yes.

[6668] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, can you answer that question?

[6669] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, we can’t disclose. For me, personally, I feel that —

[6670] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, you can’t disclose or you don’t want to disclose?

[6671] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can’t disclose because it’s the understanding that we have, the trust that we have. As I mentioned earlier on, it’s a sensitive issue to Raeesah. It concerned a lot of parties, even Raeesah’s families.

[6672] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, let me stop you there.

[6673] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And people have not come —

[6674] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No, it’s not relevant, Mr Faisal, her family —

[6675] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, that was my —

[6676] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Listen. Her family circumstances are not relevant.

- [6677] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's relevant to me.
- [6678] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** What's relevant in this exchange, please focus on the evidence I've just showed you. What's relevant in this context from Ms Loh and Mr Nathan was that you, as the DP, should disclose to your members that, actually, Ms Khan, just a few days after the falsehood in August, had come to you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim to confess fully and to seek your advice.
- [6679] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** If I disclose to them, isn't that I betray the trust that she trusts in me?
- [6680] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, I think —
- [6681] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That is my —
- [6682] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — you know where I'm coming from?
- [6683] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I know where you're coming from. Logically, yes, I do agree with you, Mr Edwin.
- [6684] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** How can a member come and give you an honest opinion, an unbiased opinion, which is the impression that your press release conveys, if I thought that only Ms Khan was aware of the falsehood and she proceeded to repeat the falsehood without telling the senior Party leadership? That would be a very different impression than if she had told the senior Party leadership first, right? You would agree with that, correct? It's a matter of logic, fairness.
- [6685] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logic, yes.
- [6686] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And fairness?
- [6687] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And the difficulty we are facing at that point in time.
- [6688] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, and fairness, correct?
- [6689] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logically, yes.
- [6690] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And fairness?
- [6691] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logically, yes.
- [6692] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm putting to you "and fairness". Correct?
- [6693] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In terms of logically, it's yes. Fairness, it's yes. You need to uphold the fairness.
- [6694] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Meaning, it would be fair to Ms Khan, correct?
- [6695] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[6696] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It has to be fair to Ms Khan and to the integrity of the entire process, because if you have people coming forward to make a recommendation of what you should, which includes expelling Ms Khan from your Party, then it is only fair to Ms Khan that they also know that she had gone to the senior Party leadership and come clean, explained fully, openly and transparently, right?

[6697] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logically.

[6698] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It would only be fair, correct?

[6699] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logically.

[6700] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that's exactly what Ms Loh was telling you, right?

[6701] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6702] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The notes that you brought along today, do they include an account of what she told you?

[6703] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, I don't have that part of the meeting we had with Ms Loh and Mr Nathan.

[6704] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You don't have?

[6705] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I didn't bring it along with me.

[6706] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you have recorded it?

[6707] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[6708] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** In your report to the CEC, did you include what Ms Loh and Mr Nathan said?

[6709] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No. We kind of summed up.

[6710] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you include?

[6711] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[6712] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Why not?

[6713] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because the thing that we presented to the CEC is that, basically, what is our recommendation based on our assessment that we did throughout the DP period. We don't actually give the detail. It's a recommendation of what we feel, basically, based on our interview with those who attended the DP.

[6714] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, you didn't disclose to the CEC, as I heard your answers to Mr Lee earlier, that, on 8 August, you had a meeting with Ms Khan, right? And she told you the truth on 8 August. It was not part of your briefing to the CEC?

[6715] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It was not part of the briefing.

[6716] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right?

[6717] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6718] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You also didn't tell the CEC that two senior cadre members closest to Ms Khan, most intimately involved with the process, and with whom Mr Pritam Singh had discussed the drafting of the 1 November statement in detail, comes before the DP, makes a submission to the DP that you should come clean and be open and transparent, you also didn't disclose that to the CEC, right? Correct?

[6719] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, and many others, yes. It also happened to many others.

[6720] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, when the CEC, according to your press release, voted overwhelmingly in favour of expelling Ms Khan, they did so without knowledge of this information, right?

[6721] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Information of?

[6722] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At least the two pieces of information I just told you.

[6723] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6724] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** That you knew from 8 August, all three of you on the DP knew on 8 August, that's information number one. And information number two is that Ms Loh and Mr Nathan, who you know in the context of this case, Mr Faisal, are not just ordinary cadre members. They are cadre members who are closely working with Ms Khan. And, as I told you, in preparing everything for Ms Khan to make her explanation on 1 November, they were involved in the drafting and the reviewing of the draft with Ms Singh and with Ms Lim.

[6725] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I'm not privy to that.

[6726] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I'm telling you.

[6727] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6728] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And yet, why are these important bits of information that go towards the logic and fairness of the process and, I would say, the entire integrity of the process, why were they not put to your CEC before they made a vote?

[6729] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, what I can tell you, we presented the recommendation, the steps that were taken, and not only Ms Loh and Mr Nathan's sharing that we did not disclose, there are also many other Party members' sharing that we didn't disclose.

[6730] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The recommendations that you are putting forward or you had put forward, would include recommendations from members whom you heard submissions from, right? Correct?

- [6731] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, we summed up, yes.
- [6732] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And those members would have no idea that, actually, Ms Khan had confessed to the senior Party members in August, right?
- [6733] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6734] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** They had no idea, right?
- [6735] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6736] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, don't you think their recommendations and their views to the DP would be completely biased?
- [6737] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.
- [6738] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Misinformed?
- [6739] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, because as I mentioned to you, the information that the DP presented was what has been collated.
- [6740] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, what has been collated includes views from members?
- [6741] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, and we summed up and we put a recommendation to the CEC.
- [6742] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes. But you summed up views of members, and those members had no idea that, in fact, Ms Khan had come clean. Right?
- [6743] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6744] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right?
- [6745] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6746] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, don't you think, Mr Faisal, in the interests of fairness, that that information, in all fairness and just out of good order and good sense and responsibility, should have been put to the CEC, right?
- [6747] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Logically.
- [6748] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** If the notes concerning Ms Loh and Mr Nathan's submissions are not there in the file that you have today, that means that there are other relevant materials concerning the DP which you have not brought here today, right?
- [6749] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I only bring along the notes that I took when we had Raeesah come and present herself to us.

[6750] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. So, can you please give us a copy of what you have brought today. Plus, on top of that, can you go back and look at what other relevant documents you have concerning the DP, either in terms of the submissions that you received from members or the considerations that you had in mind, or the deliberations you had with the fellow DP members, and also the recommendations that went to the CEC and any discussion on the recommendations? Okay?

[6751] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6752] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Mr Faisal, sorry, can I just get some clarity from you?

[6753] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sure.

[6754] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The DP's recommendation to the CEC, you set out a presentation of the findings, right?

[6755] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6756] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You had the findings and you had the recommendation?

[6757] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6758] **Mr Desmond Lee:** The recommendation to the CEC by the DP was that Ms Khan either resign or be expelled from the Party?

[6759] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Failing to do so, will result in expulsion.

[6760] **Mr Desmond Lee:** That was the DP's recommendation?

[6761] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6762] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the CEC accepted that recommendation unanimously?

[6763] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** We had a vote, yes.

[6764] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, it's unanimous?

[6765] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, overwhelming.

[6766] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Overwhelmingly?

[6767] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[6768] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Almost everyone or — that means not everyone voted; overwhelmingly?

[6769] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6770] **Mr Desmond Lee:** Overwhelmingly endorsed the recommendation by the DP that she either resign or be expelled?

[6771] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6772] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And can I just be sure and have you on the record that the DP did not tell the CEC, in your presentation, that Ms Khan, according to you, had confessed that she had lied on 8 August?

[6773] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's what I recall.

[6774] **Mr Desmond Lee:** It's not in the presentation.

[6775] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** That's what I recalled. It's not in the presentation, yes.

[6776] **Mr Desmond Lee:** And the CEC members, quite apart from it not being in the presentation, they themselves were not aware until 2 December?

[6777] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Basically, we did have Raeesah — Okay, during this CEC meeting, we started off with having Raeesah to be present at the meeting, for her to explain about her resignation because she did mention earlier on, earlier in the day, that wants to resign. So, we asked her to explain to the CEC. She was present at the CEC meeting.

[6778] **Mr Desmond Lee:** She was?

[6779] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And we created a situation where the CEC can actually ask her to clarify. So, there's transparency in terms of she can share what she wants to share. The CEC also has the right to ask Raeesah.

[6780] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, in the whole course of that meeting, right up to the vote, the CEC was not told that Ms Khan had, according to you, confessed to Ms Lim, Mr Singh and yourself?

[6781] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6782] **Mr Desmond Lee:** You recall that that information did not appear?

[6783] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6784] **Mr Desmond Lee:** So, would I be right to say that the CEC voted effectively to make Ms Khan resign as a Member of this Parliament, without knowing that actually she had confessed to the lie to the three of you a few days after 3 August? Effectively, that is so, right? They didn't know?

[6785] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6786] **Mr Desmond Lee:** They didn't know. Thank you.

[6787] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You're welcome.

[6788] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that was a point we established earlier, Mr Faisal, that the overwhelming vote by the CEC was done without knowledge of the fact that they had disclosed — Let me rephrase that. The overwhelming vote by the CEC for Ms Khan to be expelled from the Party was reached without knowing that Ms Khan had come to you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim to confess to the falsehood?

[6789] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6790] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And, in your words, it's reasonable to come and expect that advice be given, correct?

[6791] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6792] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it was also not disclosed to the CEC that senior cadre members close to Ms Khan had made a very strong pitch to the DP for the DP to disclose their own involvement, to disclose their own knowledge and to come clean with the public, correct?

[6793] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Correct.

[6794] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Mr Faisal, I'm going to finish soon but I just want to check some evidence with you so that I know them because, as we had agreed earlier, I think, sometimes, the logic doesn't fit. So, I just want to make sure that we agree and I understand you. The first time you heard about the falsehood, the false anecdote, was on 8 August, correct?

[6795] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6796] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** At that meeting, nothing else was said, no question asked, no clarification, no further comment, absolutely nothing, zero, was said at that meeting, right?

[6797] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Regarding the?

[6798] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Regarding the lie.

[6799] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[6800] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And everything I'm asking you about is about the lie now, okay? Unless I say otherwise.

[6801] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay.

[6802] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And as far as your position is concerned, that is the case all the way through, including through 4 October and 5 October, which was the next Parliamentary Sitting, correct?

[6803] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6804] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Just so I'm clear, actually, the next Parliamentary Sitting from 8 August was not October but actually September, right?

- [6805] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Say it again.
- [6806] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The next Parliamentary Sitting, if the intention was for Ms Khan to clarify, would actually have been September, right?
- [6807] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6808] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, as far as you know, no steps were taken anywhere in September, right through October, until the Sitting?
- [6809] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Not that I'm privy of.
- [6810] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not that you are privy of.
- [6811] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6812] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But as far as you know, none, zero, right?
- [6813] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6814] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And we had agreed that all of these would be consistent with Ms Khan's own account of what happened and agreed on 8 August meeting, right?
- [6815] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Her account.
- [6816] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Based on her account, it will be consistent with that, correct?
- [6817] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.
- [6818] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And as a senior member of the Party, Vice Chairman, you did not ask Mr Singh, you did not ask Ms Khan, you didn't ask Ms Lim, you just didn't ask anyone at all, correct?
- [6819] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6820] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Correct?
- [6821] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, correct.
- [6822] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** No one told you any information at all?
- [6823] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. No one.
- [6824] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Period.
- [6825] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6826] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Right through from 4 and 5 October, even though, by that time, the lie was repeated, is that correct?

[6827] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6828] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And earlier on, you said that, when I asked you whether it is reasonable for Ms Khan to come to the meeting on 8 August expecting that she'll be given guidance and advice and you said yes, right? Whether it's reasonable for Ms Khan to come to that meeting expecting to be given guidance and advice and your answer was yes earlier, right?

[6829] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6830] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But you went on to say that since she didn't ask, you didn't give any advice, either on 8 August or any time thereafter.

[6831] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6832] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** — including the meeting that you had with her on 6 October?

[6833] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** 7 October, I think.

[6834] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** The meeting you had with her was on 7 October? Correct?

[6835] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6836] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And even though you knew by 7 October that the Police had now reached out to her for an interview, which means that, besides the lie and the repeat of the lie, there's now a request by the Police to come for an interview?

[6837] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6838] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You still didn't think it was appropriate to ask what is going on, to ask for some information?

[6839] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, that was my judgement call then.

[6840] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And that is based entirely on your knowing Mr Singh for 10 years, is that right?

[6841] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, and also based on Raeesah didn't bring it up on 7 October that we met. So, I believed, my assumption that everything is going on well.

[6842] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Okay. And you were happy to leave the handling of this matter to Mr Singh even though you had no idea what he was doing and whether or not this matter would eventually be clarified in Parliament, correct?

- [6843] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I believed he will get Raeesah to —
- [6844] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Yes, but you have no basis for doing that besides your knowledge of Mr Singh, right?
- [6845] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, the trust I have in him, yes.
- [6846] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the fact that there's no discussion about the lie and the clarification anywhere between you and Mr Singh and Ms Lim and, as you said earlier, in any of your Workers' Party MPs' chats, would be entirely consistent with Ms Khan's own account of what happened on 8 August, correct?
- [6847] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6848] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And you remained in this position, despite the fact that the Police had asked her for an interview on 7 October?
- [6849] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6850] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** By 7 October, when you knew that the Police had made a request, did you ask yourself whether this was a legitimate request by the Police? It would have been, right?
- [6851] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. Yes.
- [6852] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** It would have been a fair request, right?
- [6853] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, fair request.
- [6854] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Because the Police is now under pressure due to the false accusation. There's a falsehood that is said in Parliament that you know of. The Police didn't know at that point in time and they had to clarify, right?
- [6855] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes. They invited her to give further clarification.
- [6856] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And it's a fair invitation, right?
- [6857] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I feel it is fair.
- [6858] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Did you think that Ms Khan should agree to go and see the Police and be interviewed?
- [6859] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In terms of rationally, yes. Rationally, yes, she should – I mean, in general, in general – in general, that she may want to meet up with the Police, yes. But as I mentioned to you earlier on that there is so many things to consider at that point of time. There're many things they need to evaluate in terms of Raeesah as well as Pritam, so I leave the matter to them and they should be able to make the best decision on this issue.

- [6860] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I mean, we agree it's a fair request.
- [6861] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** It's a fair request in general, yes.
- [6862] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You said rationally and logically, she should meet the Police, right?
- [6863] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In general, yes. If you're talking about her be a parliamentarian, right, so I don't know in terms of law whether is it —
- [6864] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** I don't want to get into legal positions, but just as a matter of, you know the facts.
- [6865] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In general, yes.
- [6866] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You know the facts. You know it's untrue.
- [6867] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6868] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** You know the Police are asking her for an interview. You know that the longer the falsehood remains on the record, the worse it is for the Police, the worse it is for members of the public, in particular sexual assault victims. So, in that context, don't you think it's important, reasonable, rational, logical for Ms Khan to go and see the Police, to clarify?
- [6869] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** In general, yes.
- [6870] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And so, the only reason why you thought that need not be done is because Mr Singh, you know Mr Singh well and you trust him.
- [6871] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And he has the information which I do not have for him to make the right judgment and the right evaluation.
- [6872] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which you didn't ask at all?
- [6873] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Sorry?
- [6874] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which you didn't ask at all?
- [6875] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, I didn't ask.
- [6876] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Would it be fair to say that actually in this case, almost every proposition I have put to you over the course of this whole afternoon, on logic, on reasonableness, you would agree with me.
- [6877] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6878] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** But what stops you from agreeing with me entirely, is that you trust Mr Singh?

[6879] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** And I don't have the information which he has.

[6880] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Which he has, but which you didn't ask about?

[6881] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, which I didn't ask about.

[6882] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** So, in other words, it's a trust in Mr Singh. Otherwise, everything else I've said, including what happened, the follow-ups, the logic of what I told you is very strong, right?

[6883] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I can say that.

[6884] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** And the proposition I put to you would be reasonable and rational. The only thing that, in your mind, stops you from agreeing with me entirely is that you trust Mr Singh and that you believe that he has the right information to make the judgement call?

[6885] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Correct.

[6886] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Alright. Thank you, Mr Faisal, I've got no further questions at this point, but could you please get the relevant documents, including look through the chats and see whether there is anything in there, and if there are, please do disclose it to us. And subject to that, I've got no further questions at this point.

[6887] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6888] **The Chairman:** Are there any questions from other Members? Grace, Zaqy, Dennis, Don? Maybe Don first.

[6889] **Mr Don Wee:** Good evening, Mr Faisal. Ms Khan informed us last week that she had discussed her 3 August speech which comprised of various topics with each other, and I quote, "at a meeting". And specifically she said, and I quote: "I discussed it with Faisal Manap."

[6890] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6891] **Mr Don Wee:** So, therefore, at that meeting, you were aware of various parts of her 3 August speech, meaning the FGC, the polygamy, as well as the alleged Police mistreatment?

[6892] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No, we only discuss about the issues that pertains to the Muslim community.

[6893] **Mr Don Wee:** Okay, thanks.

[6894] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Welcome.

[6895] **The Chairman:** Mr Zaqy Mohamad.

[6896] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Thanks, Chairman. Mr Faisal, earlier I know there was a lot of exchanges between you and Minister Tong on the DP. I have a question. Apart from Ms Loh and Mr Nathan on the DP, were there others who responded to WP's call for members to come forward to give their concerns, feedback or even issues on the statement and the conduct of Ms Raeesah Khan?

[6897] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** There are.

[6898] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** There were. And how many, may I ask?

[6899] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I believe that I do not want to disclose because that is internal Party information.

[6900] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Then maybe can I ask: were there members who asked about whether WP knew, when you knew about the —

[6901] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[6902] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** No one asked about that?

[6903] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[6904] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** So, it's interesting that no one asked about transparency or when the leadership knew about this.

[6905] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** If you ask me, there's no one asked about it, yes.

[6906] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Okay.

[6907] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yeah, but I believe that I shouldn't be delving much into this because we have given the confidentiality to, the assurance of confidentiality to those people who attended our session. So, I am not comfortable to share.

[6908] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** No, but my concern was more that no one asked that the Party knew this beforehand.

[6909] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** No.

[6910] **Mr Zaqy Mohamad:** Okay, thank you.

[6911] **The Chairman:** Minister Grace.

[6912] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you, Mr Faisal. Can I just follow up on Mr Don Wee's question.

[6913] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.

[6914] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** I think he asked you whether Ms Khan has discussed her speech, 3 August speech, with you.

- [6915] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6916] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** And you said that you've only discussed issues pertaining to the Muslim community.
- [6917] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6918] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Can I take it that it is the FGC?
- [6919] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6920] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** She has discussed that with you?
- [6921] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6922] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** The polygamy, she's discussed with you?
- [6923] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6924] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** And the Police treatment of sexual assault victim, not the part that she's gone, that she has been, herself, a victim, but the fact that there is this call in her speech for the Police to step up in their interview of victims, is that in the discussion with you?
- [6925] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** I don't recall that, because even in her first, her submission of her first draft, right, as what she said, and I did check, that she didn't include the anecdote. So, I believe that the anecdote is not being included, then there shouldn't be any mention about the way how the Police treated the [sexual assault] victim.
- [6926] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, I think in her speech, there are two parts, one about her accompanying. Second part is really about how we should beef up the ability of the Police in terms of the way to interview and so on. So, are you saying that both items were not in the draft or only the first part about her accompanying?
- [6927] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, the issue — she called me up to ask me to look into the, to look at her speech, basically to ensure that, "I have a strong feeling about the FGC and polygamy", so I didn't go into other aspects of her speech.
- [6928] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** We understand from Ms Khan that it's the practice of the Workers' Party to post the draft speeches.
- [6929] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.
- [6930] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, given that this is a speech that has implications on the Muslim community —
- [6931] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes.
- [6932] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** — did you have a chance to look at the speech beforehand?

[6933] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Yes, she printed it out and then we met, I think, maybe a day before she presented, delivered her speech. Okay, but prior to that, we did have a discussion. I mean, we have at least two or three discussions among the MPs, what are the topics need to be brought up. So, I did give my view and by then, she had not drafted her speech, but she voiced out her view of wanting to bring up the issue of polygamy and FGC, which I told her, in that meeting that it should be avoided.

[6934] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Despite what you tell her, it was in her speech that has been posted, or shared with the other MPs?

[6935] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Indeed.

[6936] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, you have seen the draft speech before it was delivered?

[6937] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Okay, I didn't see, because she put it up very late on Sunday evening. So, the next day, she asked me to meet up with her at the LO's office, where she printed it out and she allowed me to go through, yes.

[6938] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** And you only highlighted the area on FGC and polygamy, not the part on —

[6939] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Because that's what she presented to me, that portion of the speech.

[6940] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** So, you didn't have sight of the speech, of the draft speech?

[6941] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** As I mentioned, she uploaded, but I didn't go through the uploaded speech. So, the only time that I read the speech is the one that she presented to me: "Okay, these are my portion on FGC and polygamy, so can you just go through it?" So, I only have, I only read that particular part.

[6942] **Ms Grace Fu Hai Yien:** Thank you.

[6943] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** You're welcome.

[6944] **The Chairman:** Ms Rahayu Mahzam, any questions? If there are no further questions for now, we would like to thank you for coming before the Committee. A transcript of the proceedings will be shared with you for verification, so do go through it. And if you have any minor amendments, please make the changes and send the transcript back to us. Do note that the transcripts and any other evidence given to the Committee are not to be disclosed to anyone or published. They must be kept strictly confidential until the Committee has presented the relevant report to Parliament. You may withdraw now, but I don't believe we will need to be calling Mr Faisal Manap back by today?

[6945] **Mr Edwin Tong Chun Fai:** Not likely today, but after we get the documents.

[6946] **The Chairman:** Not likely? Yes. As requested, we will need some of the documents, as highlighted earlier, in terms of the correspondence and so on related to some of

the matters that have been raised and have been requested to you, and our staff will come accompany you to the waiting room. So, once again, thank you very much for your patience and your cooperation.

[6947] **Mr Muhamad Faisal Bin Abdul Manap:** Thank you.

[6948] **The Chairman:** Serjeant-at-arms, please accompany the witness out. Thank you.

(The hearing adjourned at 5.27 pm.)