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Court-Anwar (Dignity)

A SODOMITE CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME PM, SAYS UMMI HAFILDA

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- Ummi Hafilda Ali told the corruption trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the High Court here today that Anwar cannot be allowed to become prime minister as she claimed that the former deputy prime minister was a sodomite.

Ummi Hafilda, the 17th prosecution witness, said that she wrote the letter "Perihal Salah Laku Timbalan Perdana Menteri" (The Matter Of The Misconduct Of The Deputy Prime Minister), which was sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, more to uphold the dignity of her family, religion and race.

"My Lord, as an Islamic nation, we cannot allow a sodomite to become prime minister," she said under cross-examination by Christopher Fernando, one of the nine lawyers representing Anwar, who is also a former finance minister.

Anwar, 51, faces four charges of corrupt practice with interfering in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

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

Ummi Hafilda agreed to the suggestion by Fernando that the letter on Anwar's sexual misconduct had more to do with the question of dignity.

In the letter, among others, Ummi Hafilda claims that Anwar had an affair with Shamsidar Taharin, the wife of Anwar's former private secretary, Mohamed Azmin Ali, who is Ummi Hafilda's brother.

Fernando: You feel that it is morally wrong for a married man to have an affair with somebody else's wife.

Ummi Hafilda: Yes, of course. In Islam it is morally wrong for a married man and a married woman to have an affair.

Fernando: You are a person of principles.

Ummi Hafilda: I am a person who subscribe to moral principles and take action out of responsibility.

Fernando: You are also a person of high moral.

Ummi Hafilda: My Lord, I always try not to act contrary to social norms and Islamic values.

To another question, Ummi Hafilda, who is single, said that she had never been arrested for committing sexual offences.

Fernando: Have you ever been arrested for khalwat (close proximity).

Ummi Hafilda: I have never been arrested for khalwat. This is an embarrassing question.

At this juncture, Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohamed Yusof Zainal Abiden informed the court that the prosecution was giving notice to ask questions on Ummi Hafilda's character.

Justice Datuk S. Augustine Paul, presiding over the case, said that questions on Ummi Hafilda's character might be relevant in view of the fact that she was the person responsible for the allegations of sexual misconduct against Anwar.

-- BERNAMA

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