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Court-Anwar (Afifa)

IT WAS SHAMSIDAR WHO SAID DAUGHTER FATHERED BY ANWAR - UMMI

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- Ummi Hafilda Ali said today she had never alleged that the father of her sister-in-law Shamsidar Taharin's youngest daughter is Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Instead it was Shamsidar herself who had made the claim, she said when testifying against Anwar at the High Court.

"I had never alleged that Afifa is Anwar's daughter," said Ummi Hafilda, who is the writer of a letter accusing Anwar of involvement in adulterous and homosexual relations.

The 31-year-old advertising executive said she and her family became suspicious after hearing Shamsidar's claim.

But she disagreed with defence lawyer Christopher Fernando that she had made a serious accusation merely based on suspicions.

Anwar, 51, faces four corruption charges. The former deputy prime minister is accused of abusing his position to interfere in police investigations into allegations of sexual abuse against him.

Ummi Hafilda's brother Mohd Azmin is married to Shamsidar, and had served as Anwar's private secretary.

"The illegitimate child accusation was made by the author of the book '50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM' that is Khalid Jafri, not me," Ummi Hafilda told the court.

She admitted, however, that her suspicion concerning Afifa proved to be untrue when police revealed the findings of a DNA test, which confirmed that the girl's biological parents are Mohd Azmin and Shamsidar.

But this did not mean that Anwar did not have an affair with Shamsidar, said Ummi Hafilda.

She claimed that she had a lot of information to back up her suspicion.

To another question, Ummi Hafilda said she arranged a meeting between former driver Azizan Abu Bakar and Dr Ristina Majid at the request of the dentist who is a friend of hers.

Azizan, who was the personal driver of Anwar's wife, had made a sworn statement accusing Anwar of sodomising him. Ummi Hafilda had arranged for the statement and her letter to be sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The meeting, said Ummi Hafilda, took place at her parents' house last year, probably before her letter was sent to the prime minister.

She said she did not know what was discussed at the meeting because she was busy attending to her relatives who had arrived at the house.

But she had told Dr Ristina about "Azizan's problem" and the dentist wanted to meet him personally, she said.

Ummi Hafilda said she had also asked Dr Ristina to help arrange a meeting with Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin, the prime minister's political secretary.

In addition, she asked Azizan to meet Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik so that the former Melaka chief minister could "pass the message to the prime minister that Azizan has been sodomised by the accused".

But Azizan refused to meet Rahim, she added.

--BERNAMA

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