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Court-Anwar (Book)

UMMI SHOCKED TO SEE HER LETTER INCLUDED IN '50 DALIL' BOOK

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 23 (Bernama) -- Ummi Hafilda Ali, the writer of a letter accusing Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim of sexual misconduct, testified today that she was shocked to see it included in the book "50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM".

"I never gave my permission to the author, Khalid Jaffri, to include the letter in the book," she said at Anwar's corruption trial in the High Court here.

The 31-year-old advertising executive said she confronted Khalid "diplomatically" about this at their first meeting during a civil suit hearing concerning the book this year.

Anwar, the former deputy prime minister, faces four charges of abusing his position by interfering in police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

Ummi Hafilda, who was being cross-examined, said she was now close with Khalid and the book's publisher, Khairuddin Abu Hassan, after being together at the witness room since this trial started nearly two months ago.

But she said Khalid still refused to say how he got a copy of the letter, which she had arranged to be sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The author also did not reveal where he got a picture of her, Anwar and her sister-in-law Shamsidar Taharin that was included in the book.

However, that was not the picture she had given to police last year, she said.

To a question on her arrest at her friend Dr Ristina Majid's house, Ummi Hafilda said she had contacted Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, but he told her to get in touch with Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai.

During re-examination, the witness was asked about her remark that she had given more than 10 statements at the federal police headquarters.

She said the statements were not related to the "50 Dalil" book but with death and other threats she and her mother had received after Anwar was dismissed.

On the contract awarded by Pemadam to her advertising agency between 1992 and April 7 this year, Ummi Hafilda said the application was made through a committee chaired by Datin Paduka Rakibah Manap, who is a Selangor state executive member.

"I did not seek the assistance of (Pemadam president) Datuk Seri Megat Junid to get the contract," she said.

Asked why she did not mention her arrest to people like Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, she said it was because she had a phobia against politicians and the police then after the incident.

Earlier, Ummi Hafilda had denied a suggestion by the defence that she was fetched by Daim's driver to meet the minister together with Khalid and Khairuddin at a club in Taman Melawati.

Hearing continues tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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