

Batik material chosen by Miti and PM's Department, court told

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KLJALA LUMPUR, Fri. — A batik designer told the High Court today the fabric for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit leaders' attire was chosen by the Prime Minister's Department and Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Batik designer and managing director of Tjanting Handicraft Sdn Bhd Datuk Paduka Sharifah Hishmah Shahabudin said she submitted over 100 pieces of batik material of a required theme to Miti.

"This was a special order. It was a gift from the Government to the dignitaries," she said.

Sharifah Hishmah was testifying

in a defamation suit she filed against Utusan Melayu (Malaysia) Bhd (publisher of *Wanita*), the then *Wanita* editor Wirda Adnan, its reporter Asiah Mion and Times Offset (M) Sdn Bhd (printer) over an article which stated the batik attire for the Apec leaders was of inferior quality and was "hideous".

Tjanting and Sharifah Hishmah are suing the defendants for falsely and maliciously publishing and printing an article headlined "Ragam" by Asiah in the February issue of *Wanita*.

They are seeking damages, costs and other relief.

Questioned by counsel M. Reza

Hassan, for all the defendants, whether she felt that her work could not be criticised, Sharifah Hishmah replied: "We all must accept constructive criticism. When you criticise, you must give your views on what is better.

"We use clash of colour to project a strong identity of the user. It's also an attention getter. People remember the wearer."

She later said that she did exercise quality control over the work done by her staff.

Hearing continues on June 16 before Judge Datuk Dr R.K. Nathan. Shamsul Bahrain Ibrahim appeared for Sharifah Hishmah.