

# Article written to seek publicity and profit, says witness

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Wed:** The article in *Harakah* allegedly defaming Abdul Khalid @ Khalid Jafri Bakar Shah was written with the sole intention of seeking publicity and making a profit, the High Court was told today.

The article, entitled *Malaysia Sweeps 10 Oscars*, which appeared on March 29 last year, was published without any concern about Khalid's reputation, said businessman Alwi Yaakob.

He said Khalid was made to look like a fool and a person with no integrity.

"People who read the article began looking at him in disgust, especially since it described him as a person who masquerades as a writer while fooling around with immoral women," he said.

Alwi, 53, stressed that many people knew Khalid as the latter was formerly *Utusan Melayu's* sports editor and had also written the book *50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Ibrahim Tidak Boleh Jadi PM*

in addition to doing freelance writing.

Besides being looked down upon, he said the article had also caused Khalid to suffer writer's block as his emotions were disturbed and he was unable to find any inspiration to write.

Alwi was testifying in Khalid's libel suit against PAS, the proprietor and publisher of *Harakah*; Zulkifli Sulong, the chief editor; Syarikat Prema, the printer; Sabri Zain, the writer of the alleged defamatory article; and Muhammad Abdul Rahman Koya, the English section editor.

Khalid, 60, claims that the words in the article meant he was a common criminal and an undesirable element indulging in criminal activities.

He asserted that the article also meant that he was illiterate and unable to read the Quran or perform his fundamental duties as a Muslim.

He is seeking damages, interest, costs and an injunc-

tion to restrain the defendants from further publishing the same or similar libellous words.

The defendants deny publishing the article with the intention to defame Khalid.

They claim to have written the article in jest, without specifically referring to anyone.

Continuing with his evidence during examination-in-chief, Alwi said he never expected PAS to publish such harsh words in its bi-weekly about Khalid.

However, said the witness, he is now not surprised about what PAS is capable of as the party's MP for Sik, Datuk Shahnon Ahmad, had written a book entitled *SHIT*.

Stating that PAS had always supported the book although the public had criticised it, Alwi stressed that the book contained foul language which is against Islamic teachings.

The hearing continues tomorrow.