

15 OCT 2003

Court-Khalid

AUTHOR FELT IT WAS HIS DUTY TO EXPOSE ANWAR'S MISCONDUCT, COURT TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- The author of the book '50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Menjadi Perdana Menteri' (50 Dalil) told the Sessions Court here today that he felt it was his duty to expose the alleged misconduct of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Abdul Khalid alias Khalid Jafri Bakar Shah, 59, making his defence on a charge of writing the '50 Dalil' (50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become Prime Minister) with false information in one of the pages with malicious intent, said that he proceeded to write the book as he regarded Anwar to be unfit to be a leader of the country.

"I felt it was my duty to expose the misconduct not only of Anwar but also others who may have been involved in such misconduct," he said.

He is charged with committing the offence at the premises of Media Pulau Lagenda in Taman Kosas, Ampang, in May 1998, under Section 8A (1) of the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 which carries the maximum jail term of three years or a fine of RM20,000 or both on conviction.

Khalid said: "I have served as a journalist, writer and publisher under four prime ministers from the days of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Alhaj up to now.

"I have not written any articles that would undermine the country or public interest. As a citizen, I felt it was my duty to expose the misconduct of a leader regarded as a saint in this world."

Khalid said that he started on the book after receiving in 1998 three letters containing information on Anwar's alleged misconduct in an envelope but the sender was undisclosed.

He said that the first letter was by Umi Hafilda Ali, sister of Keadilan vice president Azmin Ali who was Anwar's private secretary, the second letter was by Anwar's former family driver Azizan Abu Bakar, and the third was a letter addressed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, without the name of the writer.

Khalid said that he later verified the content of the letters through a relative of Anwar's, Khairuddin Abu Hassan, with Umi Hafilda, who was found to be in contact with Azizan.

Besides, he said, he conducted his own investigation by interviewing several people including reliable sources.

He said that Umi Hafilda and Azizan did not raise objections over the content of '50 Dalil'.

Hearing continues on Oct 31.

-- BERNAMA

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