

Museum chief shocked over sacking

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No reason given for termination

SHAH ALAM: The director of the Sultan Alam Shah Museum is shocked and perplexed over her 24-hour sacking by the Selangor Government.

Maimunah Mohd Said said she received a letter signed by state secretary Datuk Ramli Mahmud at 10am yesterday informing her that her two-year contract, which had another five months to run, was terminated.

"No reason was given for my removal," said Maimunah, adding that on Tuesday, a state secretariat staff had initially informed her of the termination over the phone.

"Tuesday was my 60th birthday and it was the worst gift in my life.

Actually, I have another five months before my contract ends and I see no reason at all to hasten my departure," she said.

It is learnt that 75 of the museum's 85-strong staff have signed a petition criticising the move, and sent it to the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim, Islamic affairs, Malay customs, infrastructure and public amenities chairman Datuk Dr Hassan Ali and Ramli.

An irate Maimunah said she wanted an explanation from the Pakatan Rakyat govern-

ment because the termination could affect her credibility as an academician.

"I am not a politician or a member of any political party. So I am not a threat to the state government," she added.

She claimed there was a political motive behind her sacking and that the state government wanted to put the current senior curator in charge.

Maimunah who retired as the Museum and Antiquities deputy director of the National Museum, and served as a senior consultant for private museums with several financial institutions, is credited with reviving the Sultan Alam Shah Museum.

Meanwhile, Dr Hassan clarified that Maimunah was not sacked or terminated but had to withdraw from the position as she had reached the age of 60.

"On her side, she had not made any attempt to send in a letter of appeal to extend her service.

At the same time, we were in the process of appointing new board members and decided that a new person would helm the post," he said.

Ramli could not be reached for comment.