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Sukma's appeal to be heard on Dec 16

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja's appeal against the High Court decision to dismiss his application for a writ of habeas corpus will be heard on Dec 16.

Sukma Darmawan, who is Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's adopted brother, had sought his release on the grounds that his conviction and sentencing by the Sessions Court were unlawful as the court of competent jurisdiction was the Syariah Subordinate Court.

He was sentenced to six months' jail on Sept 19 after he pleaded guilty to committing an act of gross indecency.

He had admitted committing the offence at the official residence of Anwar, the then Deputy Prime Minister, at No 47, Jalan Damansara in Kuala Lumpur in April, this year.

He is appealing on the grounds that High Court judge Datuk Abdul Wahab Patail had misdirected himself on several issues of law.

The grounds of appeal state that the judge was wrong in, after concluding liwat (sodomy) as an offence within the jurisdiction of the Syariah Court, ruling that the charge under which Sukma was convicted was within the jurisdiction of the Sessions Court.

Karpal Singh told reporters a summons had been served on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Government via the Attorney-General's chambers in relation to Anwar's civil suit.

Karpal, representing Anwar in the suit, said the summons was served on Tuesday afternoon. Anwar filed the suit against Prime Minister and the Government last Friday challenging his dismissal from the Cabinet.

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