

27 OCT 1999

Court-Anwar (Mahathir)

COURT ISSUES FRESH SUBPOENA AGAINST PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- The High Court here today issued a fresh subpoena requiring Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to be present at Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy trial next Monday.

The subpoena requires Dr Mahathir to be present to enable the defence to interview him before deciding whether to call him as a witness.

Gobind Singh Deo, counsel for Anwar's adopted brother, Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, who is being jointly tried with the former deputy prime minister, told reporters outside the court that the fresh subpoena was to replace the one issued on Oct 18.

"We hope that the prime minister will accept the subpoena and attend court as required," he said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir had said that he was willing to testify in Anwar's trial if given the list of questions relating to the sodomy charge.

Gobind Singh said: "The question of sending him the list of the questions does not arise but we expect the subpoena to be served within the next few days."

The Oct 18 subpoena, issued at Sukma's request, did not state any date but on Oct 21 Justice Datuk Arifin Jaka ordered the prime minister to be present in court tomorrow.

Anwar, 52, and Sukma, 38, are alleged to have sodomised Azizan Abu Bakar, 39, the former driver of Anwar's wife at Sukma's apartment in Tivoli Villa, Bangsar, here, one night at 7.45 between January and March, 1993.

Sukma, a businessman, is also charged with abetting Anwar to sodomise Azizan at the same place and time.

-- BERNAMA

SBB NHD JK