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PM to appear as witness if required by court

Lokman Mansor

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he will appear as a witness in Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy case if required to do so by the court.

Speaking to reporters after opening the first Africa-Asia Business Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he said so far he has not received a subpoena to appear in court.

When told by one reporter that the defence lawyers would rather interview him rather than have him appear in court, Dr Mahathir replied: "The last time (Anwar's corruption case) they also wanted me to appear as a defence witness, I consented. They wrote to me and I asked them what questions they want to ask. They asked me the questions and I told them I will answer these questions in the court, and then they decided not to call me.

"So now I am asking them too, what questions they want to ask me. Even if they want to interview me I want to know what are the questions, whether they are relevant to sodomy or not," he said.

Dr Mahathir said if the questions are relevant to arsenic or conspiracy, these are not part of the ongoing trial. "If I can give evidence to show that sodomy has taken place and Datuk Seri Anwar is involved then I will appear in court. But on other questions that are not relevant to the case tried in court, I don't think they have a right to summon me to give evidence on things like conspiracy and arsenic poisoning," he said.

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