

23/03/2000

Anwar's sodomy trial postponed to today

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The High Court today postponed to tomorrow the sodomy trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his adopted brother Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja.

Deputy Registrar Rozilah Salleh announced over the microphone that the case would resume tomorrow after judge Datuk Arifin Jaka granted an adjournment in chambers.

Anwar's leading counsel Christopher Fernando told reporters later that the defence applied for the adjournment because some of Anwar's lawyers were involved in lawyer Zainur Zakaria's appeal in the Court of Appeal. (Zainur was sentenced to three months' jail by the High Court on Nov 30, 1998 after judge Datuk S. Augustine Paul found him in contempt for filing an affidavit on behalf of Anwar, who was then on trial on four counts of corrupt practice.

(Anwar had alleged in his affidavit that Senior Deputy Public Prosecutors Datuk Abdul Gani Patail and Datuk Azahar Mohamed had sought fabricated evidence against him).

Fernando also said parties in the sodomy trial were expected to submit tomorrow on the relevance of the proposed evidence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Meanwhile, another of Anwar's lawyers S.N Nair said Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin and former Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob had been served with subpoenas to testify in the trial.

Anwar and Sukma are charged with sodomising Azizan Abu Bakar at 10-7-2, Tivoli Villa, Jalan Medang Tanduk, Bangsar, about 7.45pm between January and March 1993.

Sukma, a businessman, is also facing a second charge of abetting Anwar in sodomising Azizan.

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