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Anwar's sodomy trial postponed

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The High Court today adjourned the sodomy trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim until the outcome of his appeal against a ruling that the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad does not have to testify for the defence.

Deputy Registrar Rozilah Saleh announced over the microphone that the trial was postponed to a date to be fixed after the appeal was heard.

She said this after parties came out from the chambers of judge Datuk Arifin Jaka about 9.45am. They had gone into the chambers about 9.15am.

On April 21, Arifin ruled that Dr Mahathir did not have to testify for the defence since his intended evidence was irrelevant. He also set aside the subpoena issued on the Prime Minister.

Anwar and Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, who is his adopted brother, are charged with sodomising Azizan Abu Bakar at a Tivoli Villa apartment in Bangsar between January and March 1993.

Sukma is facing a second charge of abetting Anwar in sodomising Azizan at the same time and place. Azizan is the former driver of Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Meanwhile, Sukma's counsel Gobind Singh Deo told reporters that the defence had informed Arifin today that it had decided not to call Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon. He was subpoenaed by Sukma.

(END)