

09 FEB 2000

Court-Anwar

DR MAHATHIR TO TESTIFY IN ANWAR'S TRIAL NEXT WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be called to give evidence in the sodomy trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his adopted brother next week.

Lawyer Gobind Singh Deo, representing Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja, Anwar's adopted brother, said the defence proposed to call Dr Mahathir after several witnesses had completed giving evidence.

" We will call PM (Prime Minister) by next week and he will have to come to court like any other witnesses," he told reporters at the end of today's trial.

The subpoena had been served on Dr Mahathir and the defence would inform him on when he would be needed, he said.

The subpoena was served on Dr Mahathir in October last year following Sukma's application.

Sukma finished giving evidence at the trial, in its 82nd day, today. Forensic expert Dr Zahari Noor was next followed by Rahimazlan Abdul Rahim, who worked as the renovations manager for Sukma's apartment from 1992 to 1993.

Anwar, 52, and Sukma, 39, are jointly charged with sodomising Azizan Abu Bakar, 39, in Sukma's apartment at Tivoli Villa in Bangsar, here, on one night between January and March 1993.

Sukma, a businessman, faces another charge of abetting Anwar in sodomising Azizan, the driver of Anwar's wife, at the same place and time.

Dr Zahari said he did not rule out the possibility of Sukma having been sodomised although his examination on him showed no sign of his anus had or had been penetrated by a blunt object whether new or old.

When Gobind asked what he meant by blunt object, Dr Zahari, the third defence witness, said it covered various objects including the man's penis.

Dr Zahari, who is attached to the Kuala Lumpur Hospital, said he arrived at the conclusion after examining Sukma on Sept 9, 1998 in Bukit Aman on ASP Rodwan Yusuf's request.

He agreed to the suggestion by senior DPP Datuk Azahar Mohamed that it was quite difficult to get medical evidence for sodomy cases provided the examination was done a few hours after the act.

Earlier, Sukma, continuing his evidence in cross-examination by senior DPP Datuk Abdul Gani Patail, said he did send a letter to Bandaraya Properties Management Sdn Bhd on his corresponding address on March 1993.

He said one of his letters dated March 11, 1993 requested all correspondence be addressed to his apartment at Tivoli Villa.

He said he also informed his family about the change of address.

Asked on his confession before a Sessions Court judge on Sept 17, 1998, Sukma said details of the confession were given by a team of police officers.

Rahimazlan, in his evidence, said he worked for Sukma from 1992 till end of 1998.

He said he was incharge for the overall renovations to Sukma's apartment which started in December 1992 and were completed in three to four months later.

Hearing continues tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

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