

15/06/2000

Sukma appeals against court ruling on witness

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Businessman Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja has filed a notice of appeal against the decision of the Court of Appeal disallowing him from calling Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a defence witness in his sodomy trial.

The notice was filed at the Court of Appeal registry today by the legal firm of Karpal Singh & Co.

Sukma and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim are on trial for allegedly sodomising former driver Azizan Abu Bakar at a Tivoli Villas apartment between January and March 1993.

He 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.

The trial is now pending submissions next Wednesday.

On April 21, the High Court rejected the defence application to call Dr Mahathir as its witness on the grounds that the Prime Minister's evidence was irrelevant.

Anwar and Sukma then appealed to the Court of Appeal, which struck out the appeal on June 6 without going into the merits.

Anwar has since filed a notice of appeal.

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