

Sodomy II: Najib, Rosmah offered as witnesses
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With the prosecution closing its sodomy case against Anwar Ibrahim today, the defence team for the politician indicated it may call Prime Minister Najib Razak and his wife Rosmah Mansor as witnesses.

Both Najib and Rosmah's names were among the 71 witnesses offered by the prosecution to the defence should Kuala Lumpur High Court judge Mohamad Zabidin Mohd Diah rule a "prima facie" case against the 63-year-old and order him to make his defence.

Besides Najib and Rosmah, some of the other prominent names in the list are former inspector-general of police Musa Hassan, former Sabah chief minister Yong Teck Lee, his younger brother Yong Teck Shing, lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah and a special officer to Najib when he was deputy prime minister, Khairil Annas Jusoh.

Others include Shahlan Ismail, who was political secretary to Najib when he was DPM, former athlete Mumtaz Begum Abdul Jaafar, former Malacca police chief Mohd Rodwan Mohd Yusof, former PKR Youth chief Senator Muhamad Ezam Mohd Nor, Pusrawi doctor Dr Mohamad Osman Abdul Hamid and even complainant Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan's former fiance Nurjannatul Syariza Mohd Zaki.

The list also included the potential alibi witnesses who were in the Desa Damansara condominium unit when Anwar was said to have held a meeting with them.

Solicitor-General II Mohd Yusof Zainal Abiden (right) handed the list to the defence team led by Karpal as soon as the prosecution closed its case.

The list of witnesses has not been provided since day one of the 57 days of hearing, during which and 27 prosecution witnesses were called.

Justice Zabidin has asked the defence to provide the names they would call as witnesses when the trial resumes on April 18.

Najib and Rosmah may be called

Both Karpal and Sankara indicated outside the court that they would study the list and that there was a likelihood that Najib and Rosmah would be called.

"We have to indicate to the judge as to who we will call as potential witnesses should Anwar be called to make his defence. This is to enable us to interview the witnesses before they appear in court," Karpal said.

Besides this, Karpal said, "we will also call Dr Mohamad Osman".

Osman, who was the first physician to examine Saiful, had claimed there was no penetration to Saiful's anus and the medical report stated "introduction of plastic into anus".

However, Saiful, during cross-examination by Karpal, denied any such notion and had called Dr Osman a liar.

All the 71 witnesses have had their statements recorded by police under Criminal Procedure Code, and hence they can be summoned to testify in court.

During the proceedings, investigating officer Supt Jude Blacious Pereira admitted he recorded Rosmah's statement, despite Saiful denying meeting the "first lady".

Saiful, the star witness had testified that he saw Rosmah when meeting Najib at the deputy prime minister's residence in Putrajaya, but denied meeting her personally.

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