

Defence team to interview PM, wife
Malaysiakini.com
May 16, 2011

Anwar Ibrahim's defence team will get cracking in the next few days to interview potential witnesses for the Sodomy II trial, including premier Najib Abdul Razak and his wife Rosmah Mansor.

Others on the list include former police chief Musa Hassan, former PKR Youth chief and now Umno senator Mohd Ezam Mohd Nor, and former athlete Mumtaz Jaafar who is said to be Rosmah's acquaintance.

Lawyer Karpal Singh said the witnesses will be interviewed at the Kuala Lumpur court complex in Jalan Duta "and we will then decide on whether to call them (to testify)".

"The prosecutors want the defence team to interview Najib at the Prime Minister's Office (in Putrajaya) but we want a neutral place, and suggested (the court complex in Jalan Duta). We will interview them in the next couple of days," he said.

"There are 25 witnesses who we have shortlisted from the list given by the prosecution."

Karpal said the prosecutors have agreed to allocate a room in the court complex for the interviews to be recorded.

'Alibi witness' included

Another defence lawyer Sankara Nair said the shortlisted witnesses will include the 'alibi witness' who was at the condominium where the alleged sodomy took place.

"We will interview them first and then decide on who to call," Sankara (right) said.

The defence team's specialists - Dr David Wells, Dr Brian McDonald and an Indian national forensic expert - are also expected to testify.

The prosecution has compiled a list of 73 witnesses, 26 of who had testified during the prosecution case. Among them was the complainant Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

Kuala Lumpur High Court judge Justice Mohamad Zabidin Mohd Diah today ordered Anwar to enter his defence, finding that a prima facie case has been established.

The trial is set to resume from June 6-30 with Anwar expected to take the stand first.