

Karpal ill, judge orders trial to adjourn
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The Anwar Ibrahim sodomy trial has been postponed to tomorrow, as lead defence counsel Karpal Singh is down with diarrhoea.

Karpal's son Ram told the Kuala Lumpur High Court that a blood test was done on his father as the doctors suspect him to have dengue.

"The blood test was taken on Friday and results are expected today."

Solicitor-general II Mohd Yusof Zainal Abiden said the prosecution has no objection to the postponement.

"We knew that he is unwell since yesterday," he said.

High Court judge Justice Mohamad Zabidin Mohd Diah subsequently ordered that if Karpal is not able to attend hearing on Wednesday, the defence team will have to arrange for other lawyers to replace him in conducting the cross-examination of witnesses.

Later outside the court, lawyer Sankara Nair told reporters that Karpal (*left*) had been having diarrhoea since yesterday, and complained of body aches.

These could be symptoms of dengue, said Sankara.

"The results of the blood tests will only be obtained this afternoon. We wish Karpal well."

Whatever it is, the judge has ordered that the trial and cross-examination continue tomorrow, said Sankara.

He added that the defence lawyers have yet to obtain a copy of the initial medical report of the examination which doctors had conducted on Anwar's accuser, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

Sankara said what they have are unsigned copies of the report, which is not relevant for the defence.

"We still need to get the copy of the report. and (only then) we will discuss the next course of action."

Yesterday, during the cross-examination of Dr Mohd Razali Ibrahim, Karpal told the court that without the preliminary medical report, the defence cannot continue on questioning as it would disrupt the line of question.

"A lot hinges on the medical report, which has not been tendered as evidence," said Karpal.

So far, only the second, July 13, medical report had been tendered as evidence.

PKR's uphill task in Batu Sapi

Anwar also told reporters he wishes Karpal well.

Commenting on the by-elections occurring simultaneously in Batu Sapi, Sabah, and Galas, Kelantan, the PKR de-facto leader conceded that PKR faces an uphill task in Batu Sapi.

"I admit we have to work hard in Batu Sapi," he said.

PKR has placed Ansari Abdullah as its candidate in the possibly three-way fight with SAPP's Yong Teck Lee and BN's Linda Tsen.

In Galas, however, Anwar said PKR's partner in the Pakatan Rakyat coalition PAS has a good chance of retaining the seat with its candidate Dr Zulkefli Mohamad against BN's Abdul Aziz Yusof.

Both seats see nominations being held today.

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