

Court of Appeal rejects Anwar's bid for medical reports
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PUTRAJAYA - A three-member Court Of Appeal here has unanimously dismissed Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's application to obtain access to sodomy trial complainant Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan's medical reports.

Justice Zaleha Zahari, who led the three-member panel, upheld a lower court's decision to withhold key documents from Anwar's defence team.

The other judges were Abdul Malik Ishak and Clement Allan Skinner.

Anwar lost his initial attempt for the medical reports at the Kuala Lumpur High Court on June 18.

Meanwhile, Karpal, who is leading the defence team, told reporters that he will seek further instructions on whether to take the appeal to Malaysia's apex court, the Federal Court.

The conduct of the trial has sparked stern condemnation abroad. No less than former U.S. vice president and Nobel laureate Al Gore and former World Bank chief Paul Wolfowitz who have spoken up for Anwar.

They have urged the Obama administration to warn the Najib administration against practising such "overt suppression" of the democratic principles of justice and fair play.

"Mr Anwar has been charged under very dubious circumstances with sodomy, a criminal offence under Malaysian law. If convicted, he faces a possible 20-year sentence—effectively life in prison for a man of 63," Gore and Wolfowitz said in a joint statement earlier this week.

The sodomy trial will resume on Monday.

Veteran lawyer Karpal said the High Court will next deal with their bid to drop the sodomy charge against Anwar, based on the latter's "assertions" of an affair between a deputy public prosecutor in the case, Farah Azlina Latif, and Saiful.

Karpal noted that neither Farah nor Saiful have denied the romantic link or challenged Anwar's sworn statement, which puts the entire trial in question of being an abuse of the court process.

Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail had ordered Farah dropped from the prosecution team after the scandal broke.

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