

DECISION TODAY ON PM'S IMMUNITY QUERY

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Anwar applies to refer eight constitutional questions to Federal Court

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THE High Court will today deliver its decision on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's application to refer eight constitutional questions to the Federal Court on laws governing the immunity of a sitting prime minister.

Judge Roz Mawar Rozain set

the date after hearing submissions on Anwar's application to refer the questions linked to a sexual assault civil suit brought against him by former research officer Muhammad Yusoff Rawther four years ago.

During proceedings yesterday, lawyer Alan Wong Teck Wei acted for Anwar, who is also Tambun member of parliament, while Muhammad Rafique Rashid Ali appeared for Yusoff, 32.

Present at the court was Anwar's political secretary, Datuk Azman Abidin.

On May 27, Anwar applied to refer eight legal questions to the Federal Court, which included on whether he possesses immunity from a civil suit filed by Yusoff.

Anwar had sought the apex

court to rule whether Articles 39, 40 and 43 of the Federal Constitution grant him qualified immunity from Yusoff's suit.

Yusoff filed the suit before Anwar became prime minister on Nov 24, 2022.

Anwar had asked the court to decide whether Yusoff's suit, set to go to trial from June 16, would impair the effective discharge of his executive duties and undermine the constitutional separation of powers.

He had also requested the court to consider whether the lawsuit impacts his ability to carry out executive duties and undermines the principle of separation of powers guaranteed by the Constitution.

Anwar's senior political secretary, Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskan-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's political secretary, Datuk Azman Abidin, arriving at the Kuala Lumpur High Court yesterday for the hearing of Anwar's application to refer legal questions to the Federal Court. NSTP PIC BY AHMAD UKASYAH

dar Mohd Akin, had said there was no attempt in the application to seek absolute immunity.

He said Anwar's application to the Federal Court was a lawful process to seek clarity from the court on his position in carrying out official duties when facing a civil suit based on claims that precede his appointment as prime minister.

Shamsul Iskandar had said the

issue was whether such civil action could interfere with the efficiency of a prime minister in carrying out the executive functions of the state.

He had said it was a legitimate and lawful matter to be referred to the Federal Court, the highest judicial institution in the country with the jurisdiction to interpret the Constitution fairly and objectively.