

Anwar's defence subpoenas PM, wife to be defence witness
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KUALA LUMPUR: Seven witnesses, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, have been subpoenaed by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's defence team to be defence witnesses in the Opposition Leader's sodomy case.

Anwar's lead counsel Karpal Singh told the High Court here today, the defence team had subpoenaed the seven witnesses who were offered by the prosecution team at the end of its case, to be defence witnesses.

He said this after Anwar had given his defence statement from the dock, to answer the charge of sodomising his former aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, 26.

The witnesses are Najib, Rosmah, former inspector-general of police Tan Sri Musa Hassan, former Melaka police chief Datuk Mohd Rodwan Mohd Yusof, Dr Mohammad Osman Abdul Hamid, the Pusrawi doctor who examined Mohd Saiful, Pusrawi nurse Yazihan Jusoh and Indonesian maid, Suliati.

Solicitor-General II Datuk Mohamed Yusof Zainal Abiden, leading the prosecution team, told the court he did not expect Anwar to give evidence from the dock.

He said this was the first time he heard an accused giving evidence from the dock which he considered as political speech or running documentary, adding that the prosecution would find a way to cross-examine Anwar on certain parts of his defence statement.

"I really need to do research. Perhaps, I can find a way to cross-examine Anwar...I would love to cross-examine Anwar," said Mohamed Yusof.

Outside the court, Karpal told reporters that the defence team sent the subpoena last Friday.

To a question whether the witnesses could apply to the court to set aside the subpoena, he replied: "Yes, they can, but at the moment, they have yet do that."

In the first sodomy case in 1998, then-prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (now Tun) who was subpoenaed, had applied to set it aside and the court granted his application.

Anwar, 64, pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court on Aug 7, 2008, to committing carnal intercourse against the order of nature at Kondominium Desa Damansara in Bukit Damansara between 3.10pm and 4.30pm on June 26, the same year. – Bernama

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