

Judge fixes Sept 29 to hear Najib, Rosmah's bid to skip sodomy trial
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 22 — The High Court today fixed September 29 to hear Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife's application to set aside subpoenas to appear in the Sodomy II trial.

The prime minister and Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor were subpoenaed last month to appear as defence witnesses in Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's trial after they refused to take part in closed-door interviews.

"The judge (Datuk Mohd Zabidin Mohd Diah) has fixed September 29 to hear the application to set aside the subpoenas," defence lawyer Sankara Nair told reporters.

Solicitor-General II Datuk Mohd Yusof Zainal Abiden later confirmed the matter. Although Najib and Rosmah had turned up at the High Court during interviews by the opposition leader's lawyers, they said they would keep mum unless the court issued a subpoena instructing them to do otherwise.

The lawyers representing the couple are Datuk Sallehuddin Saidin, M.M. Athimulan, Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, and Datuk Ghazi Ishak.

PKR de facto leader Anwar had opened his defence case by calling the sodomy charge a trumped-up allegation masterminded by PM Najib.

The former deputy prime minister said the Umno president wanted to end his political career and hopes of Pakatan Rakyat (PR) taking over federal government.

His lawyers had named 25 witnesses which included Najib, Rosmah and former Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan.

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