

Putrajaya admits it organised one roadshow to explain sodomy conviction

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Putrajaya admitted today that it organised one roadshow, after Federal Court ruled that Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was guilty of sodomising his former aide, to explain the case to the public.

De facto law minister Nancy Shukri told Parliament that after that one roadshow, the rests were on the requests of non-governmental organisations and political groups.

She said this when asked a supplementary question on the role of lawyer-turned-prosecutor Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah in prosecuting the case and the roadshows by Er Teck Hwa (DAP-Bakri).

"After the case, the government only did one roadshow to explain the case but the rest was on the request of NGOs including political NGOs.

"If Yang Berhormat-Yang Berhormat want to invite Tan Sri Shafee, that is up to you. We have offered to debate but no one took it up," she said.

After the Federal Court decision on February 10 which saw Anwar sentenced to five years jail, Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin said Barisan Nasional would be going on a nationwide roadshow, which would feature Shafee, to explain the judgment since the judiciary process had ended.

The Bar Council, opposition politicians and legal experts slammed the roadshows, with council president Christopher Leong questioning if Shafee's conduct befitting or compatible with the dignity of a prosecutor or the office of the Public Prosecutor.

Former attorney-general Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman described the roadshows as unprecedented.

Earlier this month, Umno Youth reportedly said that the briefing sessions to explain the judgment in the sodomy conviction will continue but behind closed-doors and without Shafee. – March 11, 2015.

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