



LENDING SUPPORT: Former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Sukma at the court premises in Putrajaya yesterday.

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Sukma only feeling 'half-relieved' with ruling

KUALA LUMPUR: Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja is a relieved man.

After eight years, he finally had his conviction for sodomy set aside by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

"I'm relieved. My first thought was *Alhamdulillah* (Praise to God). Before this, everything seemed to be going wrong with my appeal," he said when contacted yesterday.

However, Sukma said he was only feeling "half-relieved" as he would still have to go through a trial at the Sessions Court.

He said although he had served almost all of his six-month sentence when granted bail, "true freedom" for

him would only come if he was able to redeem his reputation.

Sukma said he dreaded having to go through the trial all over again, but he was on a quest to clear his name.

"It was humiliating, of course, and I feel hurt and still ask, 'Why me?' But I have to face it and hope for a happy ending," he said.

Sukma, now a consultant to wedding planners, said his two sisters who are housewives, flew all the way from Indonesia just to lend him support.

"I hope everything will be over soon so I can carry on with my life in peace," he added.