

24 MAY 2001

Opposition-Anwar

OPPOSITION MEETS DR MAHATHIR OVER TREATMENT FOR ANWAR

PUTRAJAYA, May 24 (Bernama) -- Three representatives of opposition parties led by PAS President Datuk Fadzil Noor today met the Prime Minister to discuss backbone treatment for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The meeting lasting about 50 minutes was held at the Prime Minister's office here.

The two other representatives of opposition parties were DAP Vice Chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw and Parti Keadilan Nasional Supreme Council member Abdul Rahman Yusof.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Fadzil said the opposition asked Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to reconsider the government's decision not to permit Anwar to receive micro-endoscopic backbone treatment from Dr Thomas Hoogland's clinic in Germany.

"The Prime Minister informed us that the government's decision not to permit Datuk Seri Anwar to seek treatment overseas no matter in which country was final," he said.

Dr Mahathir had however said Anwar could choose any medical facility within the country for his surgery and he was confident that such surgery could be done in this country.

Fadzil said he would convey to Anwar's wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, the outcome of their meeting with the Prime Minister, and it was up to Anwar's family to decide on the government's proposal.

Anwar, who is serving prison terms totalling 15 years for corruption and sodomy, had received treatment for his condition at Kuala Lumpur Hospital for more than five months from Nov 25 till May 2.

After he turned down the government's proposal that he undergo surgery at the KL Hospital, he was taken back to Sungai Buloh Prison and received conventional treatment.

-- BERNAMA

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