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Pas ready to guarantee Anwar's return

PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor said yesterday the party was prepared to guarantee the Government that former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would return to Malaysia if he was allowed to undergo spinal surgery abroad.

He said Anwar had no intention of fleeing the country as he had nothing to gain in doing so.

"If he had wanted to run, he could have done so long before he was arrested.

"We are prepared to give the Government any guarantee they ask as long as Anwar is allowed the treatment he wants," he said, adding that at present, Anwar is still in pain and is on pain killers.

During a recent meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Fadzil said he (Dr Mahathir) had said Anwar was a prisoner and Malaysian laws would not apply to him once he was on foreign soil.

"I am sure this is only a minor problem which could be ironed out between Malaysia and the country where Anwar is treated," he said.

Fadzil said there was nothing in the Prisons Act to restrict Anwar from going abroad for treatment.

"There is nothing much we can do other than appeal to the Prime Minister on humanitarian grounds to reconsider the decision," he added.

Asked if Anwar would finally opt to undergo surgery locally if all requests to go abroad were rejected, he said the final decision would be left with the family.

On the Malay unity talks between Umno and Pas, Fadzil said Pas still stood by its two requests that all oil royalties be returned to the Terengganu State Government and that the publication of Harakah be back to twice weekly.

"We are still ready to go ahead with the unity talks and are waiting for a response from Umno," he said.

Asked whether Pas would make any attempt to initiate the talks, he said, "Umno is the one who started the issue of the unity talks and thus we will leave it to them."

He said he had read media reports that Umno was still keen on the talks.

"If Umno is really serious, then I think it is time they got in touch with us," he added.

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