

Anwar: No need for shadow cabinet
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Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim today rubbished Prime Minister Najib Razak's challenge for the Pakatan Rakyat opposition to form a shadow cabinet to show that it is a credible and united front.

Najib made the challenge on Feb 19 last week while speaking at a function in Merlimau, Malacca.

"There no need for a shadow cabinet, because we already have our parliamentary committees which oversees aspects of governance from the PM's department to other ministries," Anwar (right) told reporters after chairing the Pakatan leadership council meeting in Petaling Jaya.

Instead of Pakatan needing to prove itself, Anwar hinted Najib's statement as a validation of the opposition coalition as a credible threat to BN.

"We thank him for asking because this is the first time a BN leader has asked us about our line-up in preparation to take over Putrajaya.

"Before this they only ridiculed us. Now they want to know our line-up!" said the Permatang Pauh parliamentarian.

Committees not up to par

However Anwar admitted that some of the Pakatan parliamentary committees are not pulling their weight.

"Some are not up to mark. But most have functioned well," he said, pointing to the Orang Book as being the product of input from the various committees that shadow federal government ministries.

He claimed that the committees in general have done a good job of coming up with the blue print for the 100-Day Pakatan promises, the Orange Book, which are made up of suggestions on how to overcome what Pakatan perceived as the shortcomings of the current government.

Pakatan has released a list of committees to shadow government ministries made up of three-person committees, with one member from each Pakatan component.

However the committees have been perceived as being part of nothing more than a rushed compromise to avoid naming actual politicians to from Pakatan parties, a sign of internal conflict, said observers. Something which Najib has been quick to pounce on.