

Anwar's speech to be read out by Nurul Izzah

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By Ram Anand

Anwar Ibrahim's eldest daughter and Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar is slated to read out the opposition leader's speech in the Dewan Rakyat tomorrow.

By convention, the opposition leader is the first person to address the House during the debate on the motion of thanks for the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's speech that was delivered today.

Although in jail, Anwar remains Permatang Pauh MP and opposition leader pending a decision on the petition for a royal pardon.

When met in the Parliament lobby today, Nurul Izzah said there was no reason for the Dewan Rakyat to stop her from reading Anwar's speech, unless there is "political interference".

"There is a precedence. Saifuddin Nasution (as Machang MP) read out Anwar's speech before, so I see no reason why this can't be done," Nurul Izzah said.

Previously, Anwar's family members and lawyers have attempted to seek the approval of the Home ministry and the Dewan Rakyat speaker for him to attend the sitting, but to no avail.

On Feb 10, the Federal Court upheld Anwar's conviction and five-year jail term for sodomising his former aide Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

Anwar and his Pakatan Rakyat colleagues have maintained his innocence and claimed that the charge was politically motivated.

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