

Opposition MPs stage walkout after motion on Anwar's suspension rejected
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KUALA LUMPUR - Pakatan Rakyat MPs staged a walkout from Parliament on Wednesday after Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia turned down the motion to debate on Anwar Ibrahim's impending punishment for allegedly saying the 1Malaysia concept was linked to One Israel.

The Speaker rejected the motion, tabled by Azmin Ali (PKR-Gombak), saying that a decision was yet to be made by the Rights and Privileges Committee and that the motion was prejudicial.

However, Azmin and several other opposition MPs including N. Gopalakrishnan (PKR-Padang Serai) and Tian Chua (PKR-Batu), protested the Speaker's decision claiming that Anwar was disallowed the chance to defend himself before the committee.

Pandikar then declared that those who were standing were committing disruption in the House.

The Opposition MPs then staged a walkout from Dewan Rakyat on Wednesday after the five MPs were suspended for arguing with the speaker on the rejected motion.

The opposition leader was summoned to the House's committee on June 8 following his accusation that the Najib administration had employed APCO Worldwide, a public relations company, linked to Israel.

It was reported previously that the Rights and Privileges Committee has made a decision on the case but could not be revealed and that it could not be made public until it is tabled in Parliament.

However, it was said that information was leaked to the media that the committee have already decided to suspend Anwar from the Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Parliament observed a minute of silence to pay its respects to the former Menglembu MP Fan Yew Teng, who died on Tuesday, The Star reported.

Fan, a former DAP deputy secretary-general, died at the Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok Tuesday after battling cancer.

His funeral will be held in Bangkok on Wednesday, said his brother Seong Than who was a former Sungai Besi MP.

Fan had been living in Bangkok for the past year to be close to his wife, who works for the United Nations office there and twin daughters.

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