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# Anwar back in Dewan as a guest

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AFTER a decade, former deputy prime minister and de facto Parti Keadilan Rakyat leader, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, returned to the Dewan Rakyat — not as an MP but as a spouse.

He accompanied his wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, the Opposition leader and Permatang Pauh MP, to the opening of Parliament by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agung, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin.

Anwar was an MP for four terms until 1999.

"I am glad to be back. Now that I am here I will stay, no turning back," he told reporters.

"I feel good to be back to accompany the Opposition chief (Dr Wan Azizah). It makes you more humble and respectful of the grand lady," he said after having tea with the Yang Di-Pertuan Agung and Raja Permaisuri Agung after the Royal Address.

Asked how his former Barisan Nasional peers and colleagues in the Cabinet responded, Anwar said he was treated cordially.

"And I accorded them the same respect. I was happy to meet some of my

old friends, including those in the Cabinet. They said very nice things.

"I greeted most of them, the prime minister, deputy prime minister, Speaker (Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia) and ministers Datuk Seri Nazri (Aziz), (Datuk Seri) Hishammuddin Hussein, (Datuk Seri) Syed Hamid (Albar)."

Anwar also said there was a "miscommunication" about his invitation to attend the Royal Address.

"I received the letter yesterday evening," he said.

On Monday, Dr Wan Azizah complained that her husband had not received an invitation.

Nazri, the minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of parliamentary affairs, said yesterday that there was a misunderstanding over the invitations.

He said the administration sent two invitations to Dr Wan Azizah. The first in her capacity as an MP which also invited her spouse, while the second was to her as opposition leader. Nazri said the misunderstanding probably arose over the second letter, which did not include the spouse.