

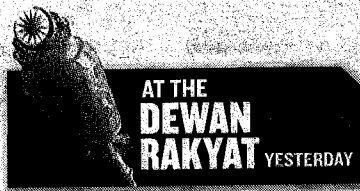
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# Anwar: A new beginning

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## There will be no turning back, says PKR adviser



DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim who made his first appearance in the Dewan Rakyat after 10 years as the husband of new Opposition leader Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, said now that he had stepped in, he will never leave.

Asked when he would be back in the Dewan since he could now contest for a seat, he said:

"This is a new beginning, when I get in, I will not come out. I told my friends now that I am here, I will stay, and there will be no turning back."

He was speaking to reporters after attending a special lunch for MPs and their spouses after Yang di-Pertuan Agong opened the 12th Parliament.

Asked if he was seated at the same table as the King, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, and if he chatted with the Prime Minister, Anwar said:

"No, I just said 'hello' to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, as I was seated at the table where the other spouses were sitting with the Queen. The



**Friendly gesture:** Abdullah and his wife Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah being greeted by Anwar and Dr Wan Azizah at Parliament yesterday.

opposition leaders sat with the King," he said.

Asked when he was planning to make a comeback, Anwar said he needed to discuss with Dr Wan Azizah and other leaders first.

"It is still too early. Give her some time. Now is the time for the opposition MPs to carry out their responsibilities accordingly," he added.

Dr Wan Azizah said that when the time was right, her husband would contest, but for now, he had come to Parliament as a respectable leader.

On how he felt watching the ceremony from the spouses' gallery, Anwar said:

"It is okay, I have accustomed myself. The fact is that I have been away for sometime now. Ten years

is a long time".

"But I feel good to be back to accompany the Opposition leader. I managed to talk to some of my old friends, including those in the Cabinet. They said very nice things and they were polite," he added.

Anwar said he was very proud that both his wife and daughter were in the House.

"My daughter, who is the youngest MP, has to perform to

»Now that I'm here, I'll stay«

DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM

ensure that we are a strong opposition, as we need to 'shake' the Parliament," he added.

On Dr Wan Azizah's claims that he had not received any invitation for today's ceremony, he said apparently, the letter was not sent, adding that he was told that it was sent somewhere else.

"But on late Monday evening, we received the letter. I thank Azizah for reminding them. I also thanked the Speaker when I met him," Anwar said, adding that most probably there was a miscommunication.