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Good to be back, says Anwar The Sun - 30/4/2008

KUALA LUMPUR: Former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who made his presence felt among the MPs yesterday after a lapse of 10 years, declared that he is back in

politics for good.

He was finally invited to accompany his wife, Opposition Leader and Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail,

At the Dewan Rakyat

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in the august House.

"I have not been here for 10 years, so of course (I am happy). I have said before. It is timely for me to return," he said.

Asked what the response was from his former cabinet colleagues, he said: "They have been very civil. One or two sounded a bit bitter but the rest have been very, very polite."

To a question on how he found the atmosphere in Parliament now, Anwar said: "The set-up and the ambience are a bit better. But otherwise, it is the same condition and the same atmosphere."

Dressed in a dark suit and wearing a songkok, he met reporters after a luncheon following the royal address.

"The government must accept that it cannot bulldoze

(its decisions through) as usual and that the people's voice has risen. There are 82 opposition MPs and if not for an unfair electoral process, there would have been more Pakatan

Rakyat (PR) representatives. The democratic process must continue," Anwar said.

He said he was proud that Wan Azizah was appointed the opposition leader.

"She can play an important role in giving holistic perceptions with the people's interest as priority," he said, adding that he will give Wan Azizah advice, if needed.

Asked by reporters about Anwar's presence, Wan Azizah said: "Well, he has come to accompany me."

Asked if this meant she had finally got an invitation for her husband, she said: "We got it late yesterday evening and that was only after we pointed out that there was no invitation for him."