

Anwar did not breach any protocol, say experts

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim did not breach any protocol or ethical guideline in announcing his plan to take over the government, following his claim of possessing a “strong, formidable and convincing” majority to do so.

Experts believe the PKR president had abided by the processes related to making such an announcement by reserving details for the eyes of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, who is being treated at the National Heart Institute.

Universiti Utara Malaysia political analyst Professor Dr Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani said just like February's Sheraton Move, Anwar's announcement yesterday had ticked all the legal boxes.

“The Constitution says we have to (either) follow the majority of members of parliament or dissolve the house. In this case, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has the option to do the latter.

“What Anwar did (yesterday) was following the protocol. He

cannot reveal the details before meeting the king. This meant Anwar had abided by the due process,” he said.

Constitutional law expert Lim Wei Jiet said there was no law prohibiting a politician from announcing that he had the majority support in the Dewan Rakyat.

“There is no need to obtain the agreement from the king first before making such an announcement because Anwar did not reveal any detail to the public.”

Lim suggested that the Deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah could stand in to look into the matter.

“According to the Federal Constitution, the deputy Yang di-Pertuan Agong may assume the duties of the king if he believes that the latter will be ill or away for more than 15 days.

“But if the king still has not made a decision about Anwar's claim for more than 15 days and he is not sick, then that is the king's prerogative and the deputy king cannot assume his duties.”

Universiti Sains Malaysia's Professor Dr Sivamurugan Pandian



PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are his wife and former deputy prime minister, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, and PKR secretary-general Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution. PIC BY

MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

said Anwar only has to prove to the king that he has the “convincing” majority as claimed.

“This is because only the king has the prerogative to appoint a prime minister. Parliament does not have that power, which means Anwar does not have to bring any motion up to the house.

“The next step would be to meet the king. It will depend on his majesty whether to listen to advice to dissolve Parliament or use his discretion to appoint a

new prime minister.”

Universiti Malaya's Associate Professor Dr Awang Azman Awang Pawi said Anwar had made the announcement ahead of the Sabah polls this Saturday to deter Warisan Plus assemblymen from crossing over.

He said Anwar's remark could be a warning to those who were planning to betray their parties.

“I was told that if Perikatan Nasional wins the Sabah election, the federal government plans on

calling a general election as soon as possible.

“There is talk that the king is not in favour of having a general election during the Covid-19 outbreak and also because the current parliamentary term has yet to reach its maturity period. It means that through this, Anwar wants to ensure the change of government will not require a general election, thus heeding the call by the king not to have a general election now.” **By Arfa Yunus**