

REPORTS BY Rohaniza Idris and Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim

EYEBROWS RAISED

# ANWAR QUESTIONS RM100M GIFT TO NAJIB

Opposition leader asked why govt approved gift of land, house during an economic crisis

KUALA LUMPUR

**T**HE gift of a piece of land and a house worth RM100 million approved by the cabinet for former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak raised eyebrows in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Parliamentary opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim questioned the appropriateness of the cabinet approving the gift when

the nation was facing a “severe” economic situation.

“I would like to emphasise that I do not mean to oppose (the request) of Yang Berhormat Pengan (Najib), but in principle, why did the government and the cabinet approve this during an economic crisis?” he asked during his debate at the committee level of the Supply Bill 2022.

Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz recently confirmed Najib had requested from the government a piece of land and a house in an affluent neighbourhood in Kuala Lumpur reportedly worth RM100 million.

Najib later rejected the government’s offer after the issue was highlighted by the opposition during the Melaka election.

Meanwhile, the cabinet agreed to set up a committee to study the terms and conditions of the government housing award application for future former prime ministers.

Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Parliament and Law) Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the committee would look into rates, conditions and maximum or quantum limits for the provision of land and houses for former prime ministers.

Paragraph 21 of the First Schedule of the Members of Parliament (Remuneration) Act 1980 sets out that allowances and privileges of former prime ministers include government allowances, special grants worth RM1 million in one instalment and housing.

As for residential privileges, a



Port Dickson member of parliament Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

former prime minister has three options — a fully furnished and maintained government house free of charge, house rental allowance of RM10,000 per month if they live in their own house or a house gifted by the government.

Mohamad Sabu (Parti Amanah Negara-Kota Raja) interjected Anwar’s debate, saying sarcastically that the government should give all former prime ministers a token of appreciation for their “contributions” to the country.

“Because of former prime ministers’ contributions, does the opposition leader agree that Tunku Abdul Rahman (Putra Al-Haj) should be given RM1 billion as the Father of Independence?”

“For (Tun) Abdul Razak (Hussein), we should give RM500 mil-

lion, RM300 million for (Tun) Hussein Onn and since (Tun) Dr Mahathir Mohamad was prime minister for 22 years, we should give him RM2 billion. Then RM100 million each for (Tun) Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Najib.

“Let this country go bankrupt, it’s okay. But what is important is this remuneration for the former prime minister,” he said.

Responding to Mohamad, Anwar said he understood the spirit behind the gift, but the move would burden the government.

“I believe and know that Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Razak served the country sincerely.

“So I ask the government to explain what happened, how much was obtained and how did the cabinet agree to this facility.”

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