

Anti-hopping law, PM term cap to be discussed in 2022

➤ Proposal made to take matters to Parliament, in line with govt's MoU with Pakatan Harapan

KUALA LUMPUR: Undi 18 (lowering of voting age from 21 to 18 years) and automatic voter registration will be implemented before Dec 31, while legislation to prevent party-hopping and limiting the prime minister's tenure have been proposed to be brought to Parliament before July next year.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law) Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said this when clarifying the latest status in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Transformation and Political Stability between the government and Pakatan Harapan (PH) signed on Sept 13.

He said the implementation of Undi 18 and automatic voter registration are based on a Cabinet decision as well as a ruling by the Kuching High Court on Sept 3.

"For Undi 18, we have no choice. The Bill must be tabled before the end of this Parliament session because the judge has ruled that if we do not implement it, it means that the prime minister and the government will be in contempt of court," he said in reply to a question from Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (PH-Port Dickson) on the MoU in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He added that the anti-party hopping legislation and limiting the prime minister's tenure required a detailed study and engagement sessions, which could not be done in haste.

Wan Junaidi said a meeting would be held with PH leaders next month to get views on the proposed anti-hopping law as well as to state the government's stand on it, Bernama reported.

On Parliamentary reform, he said the Parliamentary Services Bill 2022 and the Parliament (Privileges and Powers)

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(Amendment) Bill 2022 are expected to be tabled during next year's first meeting of Parliament in March.

Regarding amendments to the Standing Orders of the House to enable Select Committees and Special Select Committees to hold open and hybrid meetings, Wan Junaidi said a Cabinet memorandum had been prepared and feedback from relevant parties is being sought.

The parties include the Attorney-General's Chambers, Finance Ministry, Cabinet Division on the Constitution and Government Relations and the Office of the Chief Government Security Officer.

On amendments to the Constitution related to matters under the Malaysia Agreement 1963, Wan Junaidi said the Constitutional Amendment Bill on this was tabled for first reading in the Dewan Rakyat on Nov 3, with the second reading scheduled for next month.

He said the government is committed to ensuring the independence of the judiciary as well as good governance and transformation of institutions.