



Ismail Sabri speaking to Wan Junaidi after the meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. - BERNAMAPIX

Govt, PH agree on three points to amend Constitution

KUALA LUMPUR: The government and Pakatan Harapan (PH) have reached an agreement on three points relating to the proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution, with the first to refine the definitions of the restrictions for elected representatives to switch parties, as stated in Article 10.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law) Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the agreement was reached at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday.

He said they also agreed to the proposal to repeal Article 48(6) of the Constitution, as well as other amendments deemed necessary.

Article 48(6) states that a person who resigns as a member of the House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat) shall, for five years, beginning from the date on which his

resignation takes effect, be disqualified from being a member of the House of Representatives.

"And the third point is to formulate a specific law to prevent members of the Dewan Rakyat to switch parties, and that these points will be submitted for discussion and consideration by a Select Committee appointed by the House," he said when tabling the Constitution (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2022 at the Special Meeting of the Dewan Rakyat here yesterday.

The amendment to Article 10 of the Constitution seeks to insert Clause 3A after Clause 3, on which the restrictions on the right to form associations conferred by paragraph (c) of Clause (1) relating to membership in a political party, of members of the House of Representatives and members of the State Legislative Assembly, may also be

imposed by federal law.

Wan Junaidi said the amendment would also provide an enabling clause for a specific anti-party hopping law to be formulated, tabled and approved in Parliament.

"Apart from that, the Bill will also prevent any elected representatives from switching parties without valid and solid reasons, hence, ensuring political stability in the country for the long run."

Wan Junaidi said the government had also agreed yesterday for a special select bi-partisan committee to be set up to formulate the new anti-party hopping law.

He said the committee, which will comprise stakeholders including academicians and representatives from the Opposition and the government, will study and decide the best policy and provisions for the new law. - Bernama