



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking to the media after chairing a cabinet meeting at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

## SPECIAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

# ANWAR CONFIDENT OF TWO-THIRDS SUPPORT

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PM says this is based on commitment given by leaders of parties under his unity govt

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**D**ATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim is confident of securing an overwhelming majority of support at Monday's special session of Parliament, which will include a vote on his leadership.

The prime minister believes he will get the votes of more than two-thirds of members of parliament, based on the commitment given by the leaders of the parties under the unity government that he leads, namely Pakatan Harapan (PH), Barisan Nasional (BN), Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS), Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS), Parti Warisan and others.

"Please pray for the best," he told reporters after chairing a cabinet meeting here yesterday.

On Nov 24, Anwar said he would test his majority support in

the Dewan Rakyat on Dec 19 through a vote of confidence to be proposed by a government MP.

This came after Perikatan Nasional chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin questioned the legitimacy of Anwar's claims of having the support of the majority of lawmakers.

Anwar had, on Sunday, said the motion of confidence would allow him to lead the country with a clear mandate based on the majority support of MPs.

He said the matter was clarified during his recent audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah. A two-thirds majority in the Lower House of Parliament would require the support of 148 MPs and this is exactly the number Anwar is said to have from his coalition: PH (82), BN (30), GPS (23), GRS (six), Warisan (three), Parti Kesejahteraan Demokratik Masyarakat (two), Parti Bangsa Malaysia (one) and an independent MP.

Opposition bloc PN has 74 seats in the Dewan Rakyat, with 43 from Pas and 31 from Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia.

On a separate matter, Anwar said the government had requested the attorney-general (A-G) to seek more meaningful negotia-

tions with Singapore on a review of actions and legal issues regarding Pulau Batu Puteh, known in the island republic as Pedra Branca.

He said the A-G had also been requested to detail the controversy relating to the matter.

"We requested the A-G give an explanation on the controversy and issue, the control over which is now being transferred to Singapore by the inspector-general of police.

"We have also requested for any possible 'side effects' (of the issue) to be examined and scrutinised properly to avoid any problems arising between our two nations."

In 2008, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Pulau Batu Puteh belonged to Singapore, Middle Rocks to Malaysia and South Ledge to the state in the territorial waters in which it is located.

In June 2017, Malaysia applied to the ICJ to request an interpretation of the judgment.

However, the PH government, led by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, withdrew the application to overturn the ICJ's ruling awarding Singapore legal jurisdiction over the island in 2018.

Many Malaysians believe that Dr Mahathir made a mistake by withdrawing the application.