

PARTIES HAVE TO ENSURE MPs SUPPORT ANWAR

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Those who do not toe party lines will be considered as quitting as MP

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ALL parties in the unity government have to ensure that their respective members of parliament support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in any motion of confidence or supply bill tabled in the Dewan Rakyat.

MPs who fail to adhere to party instructions and vote against the prime minister or the government will be deemed to have resigned.

This was among the contents of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by leaders of the unity government's parties, comprising Pakatan Hara-

pan, Barisan Nasional, Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS), Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) and Parti Warisan yesterday.

The MoU stated that should these MPs go against party lines, their seats would be vacated, as per Article 49A(1) of the Federal Constitution.

"Every party and its parts must vote for the prime minister in matters related to votes of confidence, supply bills and any motion that have an impact on the legitimacy of the Federal Constitution.

"All parties must be responsible for managing internal matters to ensure that there is support in Parliament to maintain the unity government.

"They must ensure that all their MPs vote as per Clause 4(a). Failure, refusal or negligence in doing so will be deemed as a breach of individual responsibility to the party, and considered a resignation and cessation of duty as an MP, with the seat vacated as per Article 49A(1) of the Federal Constitution."



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim joining hands with leaders of parties in the unity government following the signing of a memorandum of understanding in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

According to the MoU, the MP's party must then issue a notice to the Dewan Rakyat Speaker on the vacancy in accordance with Article 49A(1) of the Federal Constitution.

The speaker will then issue a notice to the Election Commission to call for a by-election.

PH yesterday inked an agreement between parties under the unity government to support Anwar's leadership.

The pact was inked by several party leaders, including PH chairman and PKR president Anwar, BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, GPS chief whip Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, GPS chairman Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg and GRS chairman Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor.

The signatories also comprised parties' secretaries-general including PH's Senator Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail,

Warisan's Datuk Loretto S. Padua Jr, BN's Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, GPS's Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi and GRS's Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

The pact was signed at 3.15pm at Prime Minister's office at Perdana Putra here ahead of the vote of confidence in the Dewan Rakyat on Monday.

Anwar said the commitment given via the agreement was aimed at supporting a stable and strong government.

He was also hopeful that the unity government would see out its five-year mandate.

"If you see what had been crafted, there were intense negotiations to understand (the agreement). The commitment given was to support a stable government and, hopefully, until the end of the term," he said.

Anwar said he was also encouraged by the discussion with sev-

eral party chiefs on the agreement.

"Trust is major (in this case) and there is a firm commitment, even with a series of negotiations with the premier (Abang Johari) and party presidents (who have agreed with me)."

On whether other political coalitions agreed with the parameters in the agreement, Anwar said there was a clear understanding that no coalition had gained a clear majority.

"The agreement is the rationale and we know no party had gained a clear majority. With advice from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Malay rulers, it makes sense that we need to achieve such an agreement.

"There is no reason why we should be talking about fragility currently and we need to focus on a stable government for the people and economic recovery."