

ANWAR WINS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AS PM

NST- 20/12/2022 13-2

Motion decided by voice vote after heated debate sparks chaos

ARFA YUNUS
AND TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has secured enough votes of confidence in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, but not before a heated debate among members of parliament across the divide.

Though Anwar had claimed to have the support of 148 MPs — the minimum amount for a two-thirds majority — the motion was decided on a voice vote, making it impossible to confirm whether he received such a majority.

The matter, however, was inconsequential as a motion of confidence does not require a two-thirds majority, but a mere simple majority.

The motion itself — submitted by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadullah Yusof — was not a necessity.

New Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Johari Abdul allowed 12 MPs to take part in debating the motion and each of them was given 10 minutes to do so.

When tabling the motion, Fadillah expressed gratitude to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong for his consent to the formation of the new unity government under Anwar's leadership.

He also emphasised the importance of MPs supporting Anwar, saying a united front among all



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim talking to opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin at the Parliament building in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF INFO DEPT

lawmakers would ensure political and economic stability in the country.

“The results of the 15th General Election (GE15) had caused a hung Parliament, where no single political party or coalition secured a simple majority. Such a situation had never before happened in this country.

“The idea of establishing a unity government is a reflection of His Majesty’s forward-looking approach, as well as his concern for political stability and the people’s wellbeing. This unity government is committed to shouldering the people’s trust.

“The government is currently making efforts and arranging new strategies to prepare the country for political, economic, social, climate change and other challenges,” he said.

Since the world was expecting an economic downturn next year, he said, it was vital for MPs to provide full support to the federal administration as this would boost the confidence of investors and the business community.

He said cooperation of all MPs would inject additional drive in members of the unity government to ensure a stable political climate, prosperous economy and unity among the multiracial Malaysians.

“This house must give its full support to the Tambun MP as prime minister to allow him to fulfil his responsibilities and duties.

“This House will fully support the leadership of Tambun (Anwar) as the 10th prime minister.”

However, the debate descended into chaos several times as opposition MPs were shouted down for several statements.

Datuk Seri Shahidan Kasim (PN-Arau) was one of them, when he cited Standing Order 36(7), saying that there was no reason for Anwar to test his majority in the house.

“The Standing Order states that we cannot use the Yang di-Pertuan Agong’s or the Malay Rulers’ names to influence Parliament sessions.