

No extension of MOU, says PM

Ismail Sabri: We will still work with Opposition for sake of rakyat

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KUALA LUMPUR: There will be no new memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Federal Government and the Opposition, but we will still work together for the sake of the rakyat, says Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The Prime Minister said Umno would not be extending the current political MOU past the July 31 deadline.

However, Ismail Sabri said he had met with leaders of the Opposition and whether or not

there was a written MOU was not important.

Instead, he said what matters most was that the issues stated in the MOU were resolved.

"We have collectively agreed there is no need for a new MOU or agreement.

"What is more important are certain issues (contained in the MOU), such as the anti-party hopping Bill, that was tabled today, and the amendments to the Constitution needed for it," he said.

"With or without an agreement or MOU, we want the Act to be passed to prevent party hopping

after the next elections," he told reporters after launching the National Higher Education Fund Corporation's (PTPTN) 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary celebrations at the Matrade Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Ismail Sabri also said both Umno and the Opposition had also agreed on the need for a political funding law and on separating the roles of the public prosecutor and attorney general, which are issues in the MOU.

He also pointed out that the MOU did not explicitly state an end date but only that it would be in effect

until Parliament is dissolved.

In relation to this, Ismail Sabri said he would only dissolve Parliament when it had "reached its term" and when he felt the time was right.

"Dissolving Parliament and holding the general election does not depend on any one aspect.

"When I think the time is right to dissolve Parliament, I will do so, be it this year or the next," he said.

On Sept 13, 2021, the Federal Government and Pakatan Harapan inked an MOU to establish bipartisan cooperation covering the areas

of strengthening the plan to fight Covid-19, transforming administration and parliamentary reforms, and ensuring judicial independence.

The MOU also addressed the Malaysia Agreement 1963 and saw the formation of a steering committee.

On April 22, Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan insisted the MOU between the government and Pakatan end by July 31.

He also said there was no need to continue the agreement until the general election is called.

The Star - 28/7/2022 pg. 9