

IDRUS' TENURE ENDS MARCH 6

New A-G candidate still under discussion, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: The government is still mulling over who will be the next attorney-general (A-G) to replace Tan Sri Idrus Harun, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Asked if there were new A-G candidates identified to take over, Anwar briefly said, "We are still discussing that."

Anwar said this in a press conference after chairing the cabinet meeting.

Also present were deputy prime ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof as well as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah, Sarawak and Special Functions) Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali.

Idrus was appointed as the new A-G on March 6, 2020 for a two-year period and was reappointed for another year.

He replaced Tan Sri Tommy Thomas, who stepped down after a 21-month stint.

Separately, Anwar said the government would leave it to the parliament to decide on the next

course of action involving Batu Puteh, which International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2008 ruled belonged to Singapore.

He said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said was preparing a white paper on the matter.

Anwar described the issue as longstanding as a report by a special task force had objected to then government's decision not to appeal against ICJ's ruling, which had subsequently caused Malaysia to lose Batu Puteh.

"The loss of this territory, to any country for that matter, is huge. This is why the cabinet had today (yesterday) discussed this issue at length to decide what should we do next.

"Now, we leave it to the wisdom of the parliament," he said.

Anwar added that he had explained to Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong that Malaysia's pursuance of the matter would not affect their two-way governmental ties.