

# Anwar insists on talks before equal allocations for all MPs

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government is ready to provide equal allocation for opposition representatives in their constituencies through a proper negotiation process.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he had never rejected the idea of providing allocations and that relevant ministers, as well as the government's chief whip, would take charge of the negotiations.

"I never said there would be no allocation (for opposition members of parliament). In principle, I (also) do not oppose providing equal allocations to the opposition MPs.

"However, a negotiation process has not yet started. What we have now is only the process of making enemies.

"Hence, the allocations can only be approved once we conclude the matter. If we can conclude

(the negotiation process) tomorrow, we can then approve (the allocations) the following day," he said during Prime Minister's Question Time.

Anwar said this in response to a question from Datuk Seri Shahidan Kasim (PN-Arau) on the government's plan to provide opposition MPs equal allocation in funds for their constituencies.

He said there was also no allocation provided for the opposition during Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's administration.

"We never received the allocation when Pagoh (Muhyiddin) was the prime minister. But that's okay, we now carry the Malaysia Madani concept, so we need to be fair.

"However, does that mean that Pagoh was not being fair? If we recall Marang (Pas president Tan Sri Abdul Hadi Awang) had also said this was cruel behaviour.

"I don't want to be cruel, so I am

proposing that the negotiation process, headed by relevant ministers and the government's chief whip, start soon."

He added that a discussion session would be done soon with Kedah, Perlis and Terengganu and Kelantan MPs to find out how much allocation was needed by each constituency.

To another question from Sim Tze Tzin (PH-Bayan Baru), Anwar said the new investment from Amazon Web Services (AWS) was finalised only after the formation of the unity government.

He said even though the negotiation process had started in 2019, AWS decided to invest as it was confident with the political stability and clear economic policy of the unity government.

"This was informed by Amazon itself. They chose (to invest in Malaysia) as they were confident in our stable politics as well as the



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim answering questions during the Prime Minister's Question Time in Parliament yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

clear direction and economic policy.

"Hence, the way we approach (foreign investors) is clear. It needs to be transparent and no direct negotiations involving agents or local companies will take place," he said, adding that the new investment would in-

crease other Asean investors' confidence in the country as the nation would be the new technology hub for data centres.

Last week, Anwar announced that AWS was planning to invest RM25.5 billion in the country over 15 years to build a new infrastructure region.