

Equal funding for MPs 'okay'

PM not opposed - will 'instantly approve' proposal for Opposition

DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim says he is not opposed to a proposal to give equal funding to Opposition MPs, adding that it can even be approved in an instant.

However, the Prime Minister said there has to be a discussion first between the government and the Opposition.

"The negotiation process has not even started. Instead, the hostility has. I suggest the chief whips and relevant ministers negotiate, and we decide.

"The faster we solve this, we can approve this by tomorrow or the day after," he said during the Prime Minister's Question Time.

Anwar was responding to Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim (PN-Arau), who followed up on a call to grant RM300,000 to MPs whose constituencies were affected by floods.

On Monday, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (PN-Pagoh) urged the government to allocate RM300,000 to every MP, including those from the Opposition, to enable them to channel aid to flood victims.

Anwar said equal allocation was given during Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's tenure as PM, but this followed negotiations between both sides.



Comic relief: Anwar in the midst of a light moment with Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli (left) and Shahidan Kassim. - Bernama

"But, when Pagoh (Muhyiddin) was PM, we did not get anything. But that's okay; because it is now the Madani government, we should be fair," he said.

Anwar also said that there was no need to call a state of emergency over the flooding in Johor because things were still under control.

He also announced that Maybank

ters. He said the government machinery on the ground during the massive floods in Johor was coordinated efficiently.

"I am lucky to see machinery that has eased the burden of the people," he said at the launch of the Civil Defence Month celebration 2023 and an appreciation lunch event for the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (Smart) in Turkiye.

Anwar recorded his appreciation to the agencies involved in the mission in Turkiye, saying Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is a personal friend, was touched by Malaysia's contribution.

He said some questioned why he went to such great lengths to help Turkiye in its earthquake disaster, explaining:

"When we were hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, we had many investors in Turkiye, and at that time, the Turkish president helped us to the tune of hundreds of millions to rescue our companies there. So our friendship is shared."

and CIMB had agreed to provide a six-month moratorium on loan payments to the flood victims, adding that he hoped more banks would follow suit.

At an event in the Parliament building later, the PM commended civil servants for their efforts in helping the people, both in Johor and Turkiye, during natural disas-