

POLITICAL STABILITY

Anwar: Show proof of support in Parliament

PERMATANG PAUH: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday challenged his detractors, who claim to have commanded enough support to oust the unity government, to face him and prove their numbers in this month's parliamentary sitting.

Anwar took a thinly veiled jab at former prime minister and Perikatan Nasional (PN) chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin when he said he was not afraid to face his challengers, who had previously chosen to postpone the parliamentary sitting by declaring a state of emergency.

Parties with enough backing to change the federal administration, said Anwar, should table the motion of confidence to dispute

his legitimacy as the prime minister.

"To those questioning the country's political stability, I want to tell them I am not the former prime minister who avoided facing the matter in proving his legitimacy (as the prime minister at the time).

"The former prime minister had also chosen to declare a state of emergency to postpone the parliamentary sitting (when there were quarters questioning his legitimacy as the prime minister).

"As the prime minister of the unity government, I chose to face the matter head-on if they claim to have the numbers," said Anwar at the Malaysia Madani Aidilfitri open house at Universiti

Teknologi Mara here yesterday.

Present were Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

Anwar said the federal administration under his leadership was strong with the support of 148 members of parliament.

"I want to put an end to any statement that could disrupt the country's (political) stability."

Unlike the previous administration, Anwar said, he would not prevent any party from tabling the motion to question his legitimacy as the prime minister, as well as the stability of the unity government in the upcoming parliamentary sitting.

He said such a motion should put to rest any dispute cast on the stability of the federal government.

Anwar added that this was to return the focus to the administration of the country.

"The next parliamentary sitting will convene in two weeks. Those who claim to have the numbers (enough support to bring down the government), I am ready to face them but on one condition... Let this be the last episode so that we can return our focus to developing the country.

"It has been only a few months since the unity government was formed, but we managed to increase the nation's revenue.

"Throughout this period, we never awarded any contract to those related to us."