

# PM did not meddle in DNAA decision: Backbencher

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A government backbencher yesterday defended Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was accused of interfering in the decision to grant a discharge not amounting to acquittal (DNAA) to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on 47 graft charges.

Hassan Abdul Karim (PH-Pasir Gudang), who opened the debate during the 12th Malaysia Plan mid-term review at the Dewan Rakyat special sitting yesterday, said he had heard all the criticisms hurled at Anwar and firmly asserted that the prime minister did not

interfere in the matter.

“Frankly speaking, sometimes I get the opportunity to personally speak with the prime minister. I shared with him my opinion that we cannot interfere in the court process, that we have to maintain the independence of the judiciary and he agreed, he did not interfere,” Hassan said.

When Datuk Rosol Wahid (PN-Hulu Terengganu) interjected and questioned whether what he said could be believed, Hassan said: “I have every right to believe what my leader says. I will not throw my leader

under the bus and I will defend him in this august hall.”

Hassan, who has a legal background, also proposed that Anwar provide an explanation pertaining to his alleged interference in the DNAA case at the Dewan Rakyat, to prevent the issue from escalating.

Anwar earlier stressed that he had never interfered in the decision pertaining to the DNAA granted to Ahmad Zahid and that it was the attorney-general who had the full power to decide for the prosecution in the case.

- Bernama