

'No need to support me to get allocation'

NEW STRAITS TIMES 20 APR 2024

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KAJANG: Supporting Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister is not a precondition for opposition members of parliament to receive allocations from the government.

Anwar said the government's focus was stability and economic growth when setting conditions.

"We have tasked (Deputy Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and the committee with establishing these conditions, and they do not include supporting the prime minister, as alleged by the opposition.

"The discussion of conditions aims to ensure the stability of the government and prioritise economic growth, underlining the importance of stability," he said after attending Friday prayers at Masjid Bandar Teknologi Kajang here yesterday.

However, Anwar did not disclose the specific requirements outlined in the draft memorandum of understanding, which will be presented to the opposition for negotiation.

On Thursday, Fadillah said the unity government secretariat's top leadership had decided in principle to consider allocating funds for opposition MPs.

He said in its meeting held at the Seri Perdana complex, the secretariat had agreed to prepare a draft memorandum of understanding, which would be presented to the opposition for negotiation.

Fadillah, who is the unity government's chief whip, had previously said the secretariat would meet to discuss the allocation issue for opposition MPs, following a meeting with Perikatan Nasional leaders on March 19.

The meeting was held with opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin, PN chief whip Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim performing Friday prayers at Masjid Bandar Teknologi Kajang in Kajang yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN

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and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia vice-president Datuk Seri Ronald Kiandee.

Meanwhile, PN members of parliament from Kedah were leaving it to opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin to negotiate with Putrajaya on allocations for the coalition's lawmakers.

Bersatu's Kubang Pasu MP Datuk Dr Ku Abd Rahman Ku Ismail said he was banking on Hamzah's wisdom in negotiating the matter with the unity government's leadership.

"Of course we would welcome the allocations as they are long overdue. It has been almost two years (since the conclusion of the 15th General Election).

"However, we are leaving it to the wisdom of the opposition leader to continue negotiating with the federal government," he said when contacted.

His sentiments were echoed by Kuala Kedah MP Dr Ahmad Fakhruddin Fakhrurazi.

"Our stand is clear, as PN MPs, we are leaving it to the opposition

leader to discuss the matter with the unity government," said Fakhruddin, who is Kedah Pas deputy commissioner.

Hamzah, in a statement on Thursday, had welcomed the unity government's decision to channel allocations to opposition MPs and state assemblymen.

Nonetheless, the Bersatu secretary-general said, PN would only make a decision on whether to accept the allocation after its leaders had scrutinised the conditions to be imposed by the unity government.

In total, there are 74 lawmakers representing PN in Parliament but six of them — all from Bersatu — had declared their support for Anwar.

They are Datuk Suhaili Abdul Rahman (Labuan), Datuk Dr Zulkafperi Hanapi (Tanjong Karang), Datuk Syed Abu Hussin Hafiz Syed Abdul Fasal (Bukit Gantang), Zahari Kechik (Jeli), Mohd Azizi Abu Naim (Gua Musang) and Datuk Iskandar Dzulkarnain Abdul Khalid (Kuala Kangsar).