

# PM: GOVT WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH PARDONS BOARD DECISION

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Zahid submitted affidavit in capacity as Umno president, says Anwar

HAKIM MAHARI  
KUALA LUMPUR  
hakimmahari@nst.com.my

**T**HE affidavit submitted by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, which confirmed an order granting house arrest to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, was issued in his capacity as Umno president.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim affirmed that the government respected the independence of the Pardons Board chaired by the king and would not intervene in its decisions.

He said the king's decisions during the meeting were final and will not be challenged by the government.

"He (submitted the affidavit) in his capacity as Umno president to the attorney-general representing the Pardons Board," he said.

"Our stance remains steadfast that decisions involving the Malay rulers will not be challenged. I refrain from further commenting as this aligns with the government's longstanding principle since independence."

Anwar also declined to comment on whether he had sighted the addendum granting house arrest to Najib.

He said the matter should not be prolonged, and it was imper-

ative for all parties to acknowledge the decision made by the Pardons Board.

"It is crucial for all parties to accept this reality and remain focused on ensuring security, bolstering political stability and advancing the development of the nation."

Previously, Zahid confirmed the existence of an addendum order from the former Yang di-Pertuan Agong allowing Datuk Seri Najib Razak to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest.

The Umno president claimed the impugned document was shown to him by former Selangor Umno treasurer Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz at his house near Country Heights on Jan 30.

The media were barred from attending Najib's judicial review application seeking to serve his remaining jail sentence under house arrest.

On Jan 29, Najib, who is former Pekan member of parliament, filed an application to compel the government to produce the impugned document, which he said was not revealed by the authorities.

He named the home minister, Prisons Department commissioner general, attorney-general,

Federal Territories Pardons Board, the minister in the Prime Minister's Department (law and institutional reform), Legal Affairs Division director-general, and the government as respondents.

Najib said he later instructed his solicitors to confirm the details of the addendum order with the attorney-general by way of a letter dated Feb 14.

The letter was copied to Anwar, as well as Zahid.

**“It is crucial for all parties to accept this reality and remain focused on ensuring security, bolstering political stability and advancing the development of the nation.”**

**DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM**

Prime minister