



PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the PKR convention marking the party's 25th anniversary in Shah Alam yesterday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

'STANCE IS CLEAR'

PM: I WILL NOT INTERFERE

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Alleged house arrest order is under purview of Pardons Board, says Anwar

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI
AND ADIB POVERA
SHAH ALAM
news@nst.com.my

ANY decision on the alleged addendum order granting house arrest to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak must be made at a Pardons Board meeting.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he would not interfere in the matter despite being criticised for doing nothing.

"This is under the purview of the Pardons Board and the king's decree. That's my answer, based on discussions with the attorney-general and information from the Malay rulers and the king

"We are not trying to downplay the decision by the judge. Some quarters are not pleased.

"Our stance is clear. The decision must be made at a Pardons Board meeting. The king's final

decision must be discussed at a Pardons Board meeting.

"The government has not done anything that goes against the position and power of the Malay rulers," he said in his speech at the PKR convention marking the party's 25th anniversary.

On Friday, he affirmed that the government respected the independence of the Pardons Board chaired by the king and would not intervene in its decisions.

Previously, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi confirmed in an affidavit the existence of an addendum order from the former Yang di-Pertuan Agong allowing Najib to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest.

He claimed the document was shown to him by Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz at his house on Jan 30.

On Jan 29, Najib filed an application to court to compel the government to produce the document. He named the home minister, Prison Department commissioner general, attorney-general, Federal Territories Pardons Board, minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform), Legal Affairs Division director-general and the government as respondents.

On a separate matter, Anwar

said that fighting corruption was not easy, but he would not be deterred from ensuring justice is served.

He said no one would be able to escape the law, even if they were a "Tun".

He hit out at opposition leaders who tried to defend the corrupt by arguing that action should not be taken against those who are old and unwell.

"Are you saying the sick can rape or steal? Where did you fear this from?"

"Let me tell you this. If you rob the nation's wealth, it doesn't matter if you're sick or a Tun. I don't care. The law will come for you."

Anwar, who is PKR president, said corrupt practices had become systemic.

"Who is at fault? The previous leadership.

"They (former government leaders) have been vocal in Parliament, but when they were in power, why didn't they fix it?" he said in his speech at the same event.

"The battle against corruption is not easy. First, these people have enormous wealth and influence.

"Second, they have connections with people in the government and the opposition. That is why the opposition is relatively quiet about our fight against the corrupt."