

NAJIB'S HOUSE ARREST?

'ADDENDUM NOT RAISED AT BOARD'S MEETING'

Matter not on Dec 8 meeting agenda of the FT Pardons Board, says PM

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THE issue of an addendum allowing former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to serve the remainder of his prison sentence under house arrest was not raised during the Federal Territories Pardons Board meeting on Dec 8 last year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim confirmed that the matter was not included in the meeting's agenda.

"The issue of the addendum was not on the agenda. In the meeting I attended, the issue of the addendum's contents was not raised.

"On Jan 29, 2024, the (FT Pardons Board) meeting was attended by the minister in charge, who is the federal territories minister, and I did not attend."

Anwar said this during the Prime Minister's Question Time in response to a question from Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan (PN-Kota Baru).

Takiyuddin had asked for the government's explanation regarding the royal addendum's ex-

istence related to the Federal Territories Pardon Board's 61st meeting on Jan 29, 2024, involving Najib's pardon application.

Anwar, who is Tambun member of parliament, said the case would be decided by the Court of Appeal on Jan 6 next year.

Therefore, he said, it was "unreasonable" to discuss the matter before the court decision.

"As stated in the attorney-general's statement, we will not discuss it to respect and trust the legal institutions."

Anwar also confirmed that it was he who submitted the application for Najib's pardon to the board.

He clarified that despite being one of the harshest critics of the 1Malaysia Development Bhd scandal, a request for a royal pardon still needed to be presented for consideration.

"Najib has been jailed, but there is room for compassion. When an appeal for a royal pardon was made, I presented it to the (then) Yang di-Pertuan Agong. We cannot ignore it."

He was responding to a supplementary question from Takiyuddin.

Takiyuddin alleged that the government had never told the truth about the existence of the royal addendum.

"When the matter was brought before the Dewan Rakyat, the law minister said she was not involved. The Home Ministry then said we cannot discuss it and that it is hearsay. The federal terri-

tories minister, a FT Pardons Board member, denies it.

"Since April, the people have been talking about the addendum. And when my question was accepted to be asked (in Parliament) on Dec 10, the attorney-general issued a statement yesterday saying that it would be sub judice (to discuss).

"What kind of game is this, prime minister? The people of Malaysia demand a clear explanation from you," Takiyuddin said.

In response, Anwar said the Perikatan Nasional chief whip was being a "hypocrite" and that Takiyuddin, as a lawyer himself, should better understand the law.

Anwar said even if he chose to answer the question, he could not do so, as he had to respect the court.

"This is a cheap political stunt, (you are being) a hypocrite, suddenly wanting to champion Najib. I've heard your (political) speeches, all out condemning Najib from his head to his toes, and now you want to be a hypocrite?"

"Let the court decide (on Najib's addendum) and I will come back here to answer."

Anwar stressed that a prime minister was not allowed to comment on the king's decision in the Pardon's Board.

"It is his sole discretion in the Pardon's Board meeting. Don't try to score cheap political points."