

ANWAR: PROSECUTIONS AFTER GE14 WERE RUSHED, FLAWED

They were carried out with venom, enmity and political vengeance by those in power, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said some prosecution cases after the 14th General Election were flawed as they were rushed.

"At the time, prosecutions were done hurriedly with venom, enmity and political vengeance by those in power.

"So, many of the prosecutions were flawed," he said at a press conference here yesterday.

He was responding to a question about the independence of the judiciary following the acquittal of Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor of money laundering and tax evasion charges last week.

Anwar said it was hypocritical to criticise the government over the court's decision.

"You want me to interfere in the judicial process? This is judicial independence.

"When the judge delivers a decision, you blame others, you disagree with the decision."

"The attorney-general disagrees, that's why it (Attorney-General's Chambers) is appealing (the decision on Rosmah's case)."

On Thursday, High Court judge K. Muniandy ruled that charges against the wife of former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak were illegal and flawed.

"Datin Seri Rosmah, with all due respect, has already been convicted (in a separate case). Let the process go," he said.

In 2022, Rosmah was convicted of three corruption charges involving a RM1.25 billion project to supply solar hybrid energy to rural schools in Sarawak. She is appealing the decision.

Anwar said he had never interfered with the judiciary.

"In my two years in office, I have not interfered in any case. Has that happened in the past?"

ROLE OF PETRONAS AND PETROS

On another matter, Anwar said the federal and Sarawak governments were in agreement about

the roles of Petronas and Petros in the state's oil and gas industry.

He acknowledged that there were issues to address and "extreme" voices on both sides.

"My engagement with Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Abang Openg has been excellent."

He said they agreed that the Petroleum Development Act was a national act and that Petronas was a national oil company.

"It's not a peninsula company. I've made it clear. There's no two-ways about it."

He said there were claims that Sarawak-owned Petros would decide "everything" in the state.

"That's not the view of the state leadership, neither is it my view.

"It is important for Petronas to be recognised as a national body, to respect all contractual obligations without compromise and for Petronas to recognise the need to support Petros and to allow it to emerge as an important player."

Anwar said for new contracts, Petronas and Petros must work together.

"These are the broad parameters. They recognise the national rules. We recognise the state rules and we should work together."

"MEETING PRABOWO AND THAKSIN

Anwar said Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto and former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra would be in Langkawi next week to discuss Asean matters ahead of Malaysia's chairmanship next year.

"The bilateral meeting with Prabowo will be held in Langkawi on Dec 23.

"He has opted for a one-on-one meeting to discuss several bilateral issues, as well as our perspectives on Asean and its developments.

"On Dec 26, also in Langkawi, I will have a meeting with Thaksin. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss his role in detail, as he has significant strengths in terms of relationships with several Asean leaders and his experience."

He said the meeting would address the Myanmar issue.

On Monday, Anwar announced that Thaksin had been appointed a member of the informal advisory group for Malaysia's Asean chairmanship.

He said Malaysia needed statesmen like Thaksin to share their expertise and ideas on regional issues.