

ANWAR DARES OPPOSITION TO TABLE VOTE

Holding vote of no confidence in Dewan is the right step instead of gathering SDs, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has challenged the opposition to table a vote of no confidence against him in the Dewan Rakyat if they want to overthrow the government.

He said the government had provided an opportunity for a vote of no confidence, but the opposition had not taken up the offer.

"We've been waiting for a long time... for a year. Every day we wait, but nothing happens. So, we

don't think much about it."

He said he did not think they have the numbers to bring it in, despite claims they have statutory declarations to overthrow the government.

"This is propaganda to deceive supporters so they don't lose spirit.

"I disagree. If you can't bring about change, you should work for the people.

The people will make the final choice," he said yesterday after a meet-and-greet session with officers and staff of Tanjung Pelepas Port here.

Anwar was commenting on a suggestion by Pasir Gudang member of parliament Hassan Abdul Karim that support for a prime minister should be decided by a vote of confidence in the Dewan Rakyat rather than based on SDs.

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM

Prime minister

On Wednesday, Hassan was reported to have commented on a blog post by Raja Petra Kamarudin, alleging that the opposition had successfully obtained about 120 SDs to bring down Anwar's administration.

Anwar, who is Pakatan Harapan chairman and PKR president, said Hassan's view on a vote of no confidence was the right step for the oppo-

sition. "That's a suitable view... take the Dubai Move. Now it has been proven that it's just a strategy due to anxiety among those who have lost power.

"I advise the cabinet, leadership and government to focus on developing the country.

"In 2024, our focus is on the development and integrity of the

country," he said.

On Sunday, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor was reported to have said that PN already had enough SDs to overthrow the unity government.

However, Sanusi, who is also PN's election director, did not provide more information, including the number of SDs obtained.

On another matter, Anwar denied that the government was targeting former political leaders via a series of crackdowns by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

The MACC, he said, was only carrying out its job to battle corruption without fear or favour.

"This is an MACC matter. However, I don't want people to think that this is a small matter. Whether the cases are old or new, they have to be investigated.

"Some quarters shouldn't think that this (MACC's actions) is only targeting certain people and that the big fish are getting away scot-

free," he said.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said he wasn't bothered by criticism of his aggressive campaign against corruption.

"Let them criticize. If we were to save this country, we have to clean it up so that no other leaders plunder its wealth.

"These practices of killing off positions, abusing rank and taking bribes to enrich oneself are what has led to Malaysia's problems in many areas, and have to be stopped.

"This involves using one's position to enrich your wife and children. I know many are uneasy with this (battle against corruption) but it has to be done to save the country."

Anwar said the country's development would suffer if corruption remained rife.

"If the country loses billions of ringgit, how can the government repair the healthcare and education sectors and provide facilities for the people?"