

'Allow country to be governed without interference

PONTIAN: Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan says a fixed-term Parliament will allow the government to administer until the end of its term, a necessary component for the sake of political stability.

He said the proposal by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was crucial to ensure that the winning party (of a general election) had the opportunity to govern the country for the entire term without interference or attempts to overthrow it.

"We do not want a situation where the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has to appoint four prime ministers in one term.

"In the past, we had a prime minister serving under four kings, but now it's reversed. This is the root cause of political instability.

"We have the majority with 152 (seats), or two-thirds support in Parliament, yet there are still allegations or rumours circulating that the opposition wants to topple the ruling government.

"This interrupts the government's efforts to carry out developments for the people."



Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan (centre) attending a briefing on development projects by the district Public Works Department in Pontian yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Ahmad, who is also deputy works minister, said this after attending a briefing on development projects by the district Public Works Department here.

"I am in support of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's suggestion for the opposition to propose a vote of confidence or no-confidence in Parliament in February or March.

"They (the opposition) were challenged by Anwar, but are afraid to take it up...

"Their claims are merely fantasy and illusions.

"In October, they claimed that the ruling government would be toppled by the end of January, yet the unity government is still the ruling government of the day."

The United Progressive Kina-balu Organisation (Upko) said it was keen to learn more about the fixed-term Parliament proposal.

Upko president Datuk Ewon

Benedick said while he was aware of the bill proposal suggested by Zahid, no further details were forthcoming so far.

"I am confident that there must be a legislation that stipulates that anyone who forms the government must administer the country until the end of its term without interference," he said after the launch of Protege Carnival by the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Ministry at World Trade Centre yesterday.

He added that Upko had also discussed the need for the country's administration to run within the fixed term without any interference by certain quarters that wanted to overthrow the government.

"This (such attempts) affects the country's stability, which is a crucial factor to influence the economic prosperity for the people's wellbeing."