

5 YEARS

# ABANG JO: LET ANWAR GOVERN FOR FULL TERM

Changing govt now will encourage more attempts later, says Sarawak premier

MOHD ROJI KAWI  
KUCHING  
news@nst.com.my

**S**ARAWAK Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Abang Openg wants Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to remain as prime minister until the end of the parliamentary term.

He said changing prime ministers midway could encourage attempts to change the government.

He said it was crucial to maintain political stability for the sake of economic recovery and the wellbeing of the people.

"Since Anwar is already there (leading the unity government as prime minister), let it be so until the end.

"This is because the government's principle, in accordance with the practice of democracy, is that when elections are held, whatever the decision, let it be until the end."

He said this at a town hall at Hikmah Exchange here on Saturday night.

Abang Johari said the political landscape would continue to remain unsettled if the government were to be changed after govern-

ing for only a year.

"After that, there will be all sorts of issues: 'leaks in the roof', 'coming through the windows', and maybe even (via the) 'holes on the floor'. In the end, the entire nation will become the victim."

He said Sarawak, as such, was maintaining its stance on supporting the government to strengthen the country's political stability.

He expressed surprise over allegations linking Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) to the so-called Dubai Move.

"A GPS leader, (Sarawak deputy premier) Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, was in Dubai for vacation.

"He did not meet anyone there (as claimed). So how can the GPS be implicated, including the claim that I will be chosen as prime minister?"

He said the GPS was aware of its position in Parliament, and that with only 23 members of parliament (MPs), it would not be sustainable for him if he was chosen to lead a new government.

"With only 23 members of parliament, there will certainly be pressure on me as well."

Last December, Community Communications Department deputy director Datuk Ismail Yusop claimed that opposition leaders and several government members of parliament had met in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, to discuss overthrowing the government.

He claimed that "agents" were

trying to convince people that by early this year, the Madani government would collapse with a date and deadline.

Prior to that, messages about a closed-door meeting involving Perikatan Nasional MPs and two Barisan Nasional (BN) MPs in Dubai had gone viral.

Following this, the prime minister's senior political secretary, Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, lodged a report urging the police to investigate the purported move.

Shamsul had labelled the plot as a strategy started by irresponsible MPs and opposition leaders, which went against sections 124B and 124C of the Penal Code.

Opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin had denied any knowledge of such move, and said the allegations were being played up by certain quarters.

On Jan 9, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain said police had received 43 reports on the matter and would call a number of politicians and social media influencers for questioning.

He said among those who could be summoned included Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia information committee member Badrul Hisham Shaharin, also known as Chegubard; Wan Muhammad Azri Wan Deris or Papagomo; and, social media influencer Salim Iskandar.

He said blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin was also among those set to be questioned.