

PM DEFENDS SPEAKER'S DECISION

**Anwar says
Bersatu president
cannot read
anti-hopping law
selectively**

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has defended the decision of Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul not to vacate the seats of six Bersatu members

of parliament, saying it was done in accordance with the law.

Anwar said Bersatu president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin needed to read the interpretation of the Federal Constitution's anti-hopping law in its entirety, rather than selectively.

He said the speaker's decision was grounded in the law, granting him the authority to adjudicate such matters impartially.

"When interpreting the law, it must be done comprehensively, without omitting parts, as was selectively done by Bersatu's leadership," he added.

"It's not about the prime minister or the opposition leader — it's about adhering to the law and leaving its interpretation to the

speaker.

"I don't understand why they selectively read some parts and ignore others, this is Bersatu's political method. Like Black-Rock, they pick and choose, which is incorrect," he said at the Global Madani Forum 2024.

Anwar said during his time in the opposition, Bersatu had opposed automatic seat forfeiture for expelled members, leading to the inclusion of exceptions in the constitution.

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"That's why it was included as an exception, so you have to refer to the constitution."

Anwar referred to Article 49A(2) of the Federal Constitution, which outlines exceptions to the Anti-Hopping Law, stating MPs who resign or are expelled from their party upon election are not automatically disqualified.

Previously, it was reported the

six seats of Bersatu MPs would not be vacated despite a notice issued by the party.

This was confirmed by Muhyiddin, who is also Perikatan Nasional chairman, during a press conference in Parliament on Wednesday.

The six Bersatu MPs, whose membership was revoked by the party, are Bukit Gantang MP Datuk Syed Hussin Hafiz Syed Abdul Fasal, Zahari Kechik (Jeli), Datuk Iskandar Dzulkarnain Abdul Khalid (Kuala Kangsar), Datuk Dr Zulkafperi Hanapi (Tanjong Karang) and Datuk Suhaili Abdul Rahman (Labuan) and Gua Musang's Mohd Azizi Abu Naim, who was the Nenggiri assemblyman.