

# PM: Govt open to discuss plugging gaps in anti-party hopping laws

**PUTRAJAYA:** The government is open to discussions on making legal amendments to plug any loopholes in the anti-party hopping law, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Pakatan Harapan had in 2022 proposed such amendments but its suggestion was rejected by the government then.

“Previously, we proposed that anyone rejected by their party should vacate their seat, but it was not agreed upon by the government then.

“Because at that time, Umno members were joining their party. So, for me, if we want to amend it, we can discuss it so that no one is exempt.

“They (the Opposition) opposed

it before; many do not know,” he said after Friday prayers at Surau An-Najah here yesterday.

Anwar said Pakatan had proposed that anyone expelled by their party should automatically lose their seat, but Bersatu strongly opposed the proposal, reported Bernama.

“We reached a compromise, and it became the current law.

“So, if they (the Opposition) want to amend it, we can discuss it,” he said.

On June 20, Bersatu submitted a notice to Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul requesting that the six parliamentary seats represented by its MPs who had pledged support for the Prime Minister be vacated.

The notice was submitted based on the provisions of Article 49A(1) (a)(ii) of the Federal Constitution, which states that an MP shall cease to be a member of the Dewan Rakyat and their seat becomes vacant when they are no longer a member of a political party.

However, Johari decided that the six MPs need not vacate their seats although they have ceased to be members of Bersatu.

Johari said he had conducted studies and read all statements regarding Article 49 of the Federal Constitution before deciding on the matter.

Universiti Malaya senior lecturer Dr Mohammad Tawfik Yaakub was reported as suggest-



**Among the people:** Anwar greeting youths before performing Friday prayers at Surau An-Najah in Putrajaya.

ing that Parliament review the anti-party hopping law to plug loopholes in the legislation.

The six MPs at the centre of the controversy are Datuk Syed Abu Hussin Hafiz Syed Abdul Fasal (Bukit Gantang), Datuk Dr Suhaili

Abdul Rahman (Labuan), Zahari Kechik (Jeli), Mohd Azizi Abu Naim (Gua Musang), Datuk Iskandar Dzulkarnain Abdul Khalid (Kuala Kangsar) and Datuk Dr Zulkaferi Hanapi (Tanjong Karang).