

# MP TELLS MUHYIDDIN TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR

**PKR Pasir Gudang lawmaker refutes ex-PM's claim that unity govt is practising autocracy**

FUAD NIZAM  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**P**KR'S Pasir Gudang member of parliament (MP) Hassan Karim took a swipe at Perikatan Nasional (PN) chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin on his statement that the government is practising autocracy and not democracy.

Hassan, in a Facebook post, had questioned whether the PN government under Muhyiddin was more liberal and democratic than the unity government led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, whom the PN chairman accused of suppressing democratic freedoms.

"I have no intention of defending the Madani government's record on democracy.

"But let me state a fact about what happened during the PN government led by Muhyiddin."

Hassan said he was barred from entering the Parliament building on the grounds of an emergency declaration by Muhyiddin during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"One day after dawn, I departed from Johor to attend a session of the Dewan Rakyat in Kuala



*Pasir Gudang member of parliament Hassan Karim (inset) says he was blocked by armed Federal Reserve Unit personnel upon arriving at the Parliament roundabout in 2021. FILE PIX*

Lumpur. Upon arrival at the Parliament roundabout, a Federal Reserve Unit team with rifles and shields blocked my entry.

"I later found out that all members of parliament were also denied entry, including Anwar Ibrahim, who was then MP for Port Dickson, and Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We were informed that Parliament had been suspended and the eighth prime minister, Muhyiddin Yassin, had declared a nationwide emergency.

"As the MP for Pasir Gudang, who was elected by the people, Muhyiddin's actions at that time were undemocratic and suppressed parliamentary freedoms."

"I requested the Johor Baru High Court to declare the emergency proclamation invalid.

"My application was dismissed. As a lawyer, I am not one to easily give up. I wanted to prove that Muhyiddin's antidemocratic actions were wrong."

He said he then filed an appeal at the Court of Appeal, which he also lost, before taking his case to the Federal Court.

"So when Muhyiddin accused the Madani government of suppressing freedoms and being undemocratic at the PN MPs and Assemblymen Convention, I think the PN chairman should reflect on his record."

Muhyiddin, on Jan 12, 2021, announced that the cabinet had advised the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to issue a proclamation of emergency for the country, effective from Jan 11 to Aug 1, 2021.

The proclamation was issued under Article 150(1) of the Constitution due to Covid-19, which posed a threat to people's lives and economy.

During the emergency, Parliament and state assemblies did not convene until it was lifted by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on August the same year, except for Sarawak, which was lifted in November.