

PM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT TURNING HIS 'D' TO 'A'

Anwar says it is still too early to gauge overall performance of federal government

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is optimistic that the federal government will get a better "grading" from its critics soon.

Addressing criticism by electoral watchdog Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih), which gave the government a "D" for its performance in fulfilling reform promises, he said it was still too early to gauge the overall performance.

He said he was willing to accept the "D" grade now and score an "A" later.

"On Bersih giving us a D rating, it's okay. It's not an F.

"The D in the UPSR will be an A for SPM tomorrow, God-willing. This government is new, it's still in its early days," he said.

Anwar was responding to a question from Datuk Awang Hashim (PN-Pendang) in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Bersih, in its report, had given the government a score of 45.8 per cent, or a "D" rating, for its two-year administration, claiming there was limited progress on reforms despite having strong parliamentary support.

Anwar questioned Bersih's criticism in its report over the lack of allocations for opposition members of parliament.

"It disregards the fact that, when I was the opposition leader, I negotiated

with the prime minister. Only after negotiations was it finalised. We did not accept the initial draft, but the amended one," he said.

"Larut (member of Parliament and opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin) is aware of our view that negotiations are necessary. But the opposition's refusal to negotiate had caused

negotiator, we can start talks immediately," he quipped.

He reiterated his call for opposition MPs to continue to engage Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof to resolve the issue.

Anwar also mentioned the proposed Political Financing Bill, saying he had no problems if it was expedited.

"The bill is still under parliamentary committee review. If expedited, I have no objections," Anwar said in response to an additional question by Awang.

He said the cabinet had also agreed to give the bill precedence, but critical details must first be ironed out.

"The cabinet has agreed it should be expedited, but parameters on introduction and implementation must first be discussed by the parliamentary committee," he said.

In March, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) M. Kula Segaran said the bill was being studied by the Human Rights, Elections and Institutional Reforms special select committee of the Dewan Rakyat.

Political funding is regulated by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption (MACC) Act 2009 and the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.



Datuk Awang Hashim

delays.

"If Pendang is willing to be a