

# PM: GOVT WILL REVIEW JAC ACT

**Putrajaya will also defend Judicial Appointments Commission Act in court, says Anwar**

MOHAMAD AL AS  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**D**ATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Putrajaya will defend the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) Act 2009 in court but will comprehensively review its framework.

"While we will vigorously de-

fend the act in court, the government is also committed to undertaking a comprehensive review of the JAC framework," he said in a statement.

The prime minister said the government would consult various parties, including the judiciary, Malaysian Bar, civil society, and the Conference of Rulers, to address shortcomings and strengthen public confidence.

"This is to ensure that the judicial appointments process truly reflects the principles of transparency and judicial independence without undermining the role of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the privileges of the Malay Rulers as enshrined in the Federal Constitution," he said.

Anwar acknowledged the ongoing legal challenge in the High

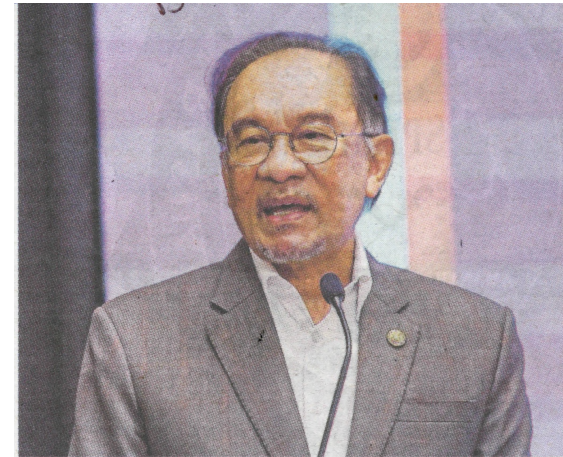
Court questioning the constitutionality of the JAC Act, and affirmed the government's respect for due process and legal redress.

"The right of any individual to seek judicial clarification on matters of constitutional interpretation is fully respected and forms a cornerstone of our legal system.

"Accordingly, the government gives its full assurances that there shall be no interference whatsoever in the judicial process," he said.

On Tuesday, Chief Justice Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat had said the proposed changes to remove the prime minister's role in the appointment of judges would reinforce the impartiality of the selection process.

She had said the amendments,



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says the government will consult various parties on the JAC framework to address shortcomings and strengthen public confidence. NSTP*

PIC BY AHMAD

which would fall under the JAC Act and the Federal Constitution, would ensure judicial appointments remained free from any perception of political influence.

UKASYAH

Tengku Maimun had said the process of consultation for judicial appointments under Article 122B of the Federal Constitution were deemed insufficient.