

# PM: PN MUST SPEAK AS ONE ON ALLOCATIONS

**Lack of unity among opposition MPs a barrier to talks, says Anwar**

**KUALA LUMPUR**

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reiterated that discussions on equal allocations for opposition members of parliament can proceed only once Perikatan Nasional (PN) lawmakers reach a unified stand.

He said that the lack of consensus among PN MPs was a significant barrier to negotiations.

"There is no agreement. Some want to negotiate as individuals, others as a bloc. Some are open to talks, others are not."

Anwar said this during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

"I suggest Arau (Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim) engage with fellow PN MPs and come to a collective agreement.

"Then, inform the deputy

prime minister (Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof), who has been entrusted with this responsibility," he added in response to Shahidan's request for equal constituency allocations for opposition lawmakers.

To a separate question from opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin, who had indicated his readiness for talks, Anwar said he had no objections to meeting.

He reiterated that allocation matters fell under Fadillah's purview.

The issue of allocations for opposition MPs has remained unresolved, after PN rejected two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) proposed by the government last September.

Hamzah claimed the MoUs were rejected over concerns they could jeopardise Malay and Bumiputera rights under the Constitution.

Fadillah has refuted those claims.

During yesterday's session, Anwar took a jab at Hulu Terengganu MP Datuk Rosol Wahid for allegedly failing to read his party leader's statements before speak-

ing in Parliament.

The exchange occurred while Anwar was explaining the government's efforts to reduce the national deficit. He cited subsidy rationalisation for electricity and fuel as a necessary step.

He said some opposition MPs had criticised these measures as unfair to foreign workers.

"When it comes to foreigners, I heard an MP defending them, and I find it difficult to understand.

"Am I now expected to be their spokesperson?" he asked, referring to Bangladeshi and Rohingya workers.

When Rosol interjected and demanded to know which MP had defended foreigners, Anwar replied sharply: "Read first before you come to Parliament. Don't just attack without facts."

He cited a statement by Pagoh MP Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who said that foreign workers should not be burdened as they contribute to the economy.

"Do your homework before coming in here. If this was outside, I wouldn't even have to answer, but here I will," Anwar said.