

REFERRING LEGAL QUESTIONS

Anwar denies claims he is seeking legal immunity

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has dismissed claims that he is seeking legal immunity to avoid facing court proceedings, whether civil or criminal.

During the Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Anwar (PH-Tambun) said he was not seeking immunity from lawsuits, but was merely referring legal questions to the Federal Court for a ruling.

He said he was only seeking a court decision on whether claims without reasonable grounds, actions intended to harass the opposing party without a genuine intent to seek justice and abuse of the court process are applicable in all cases, including civil matters.

"What I am seeking is to ask the court for a decision on whether anyone can make frivolous and vexatious attacks against the prime minister that disrupt the course of our work.

"It is up to the court to make the decision, not the prime minister."

He said this in response to a supplementary question by Cha Kee Chin (PH-Rasah), who sought clarification on allegations that he had applied for legal immunity to face cases, whether civil or criminal, in court.

In June, the High Court dismissed Anwar's application to refer eight constitutional questions to the Federal Court on the legal provisions on the immunity of a sitting prime minister.

Judge Roz Mawar Rozain rejected the application, ruling that it did not meet the requirements under Section 84 of the Courts of Judicature Act.

She said the questions posed were speculative, not necessary for the disposal of the case and did not concern the interpretation or validity of any constitutional provision.

On another matter, Anwar said he would wait for the outcome of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission's (MCMC) investigation before deciding if he had to apologise to Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin over the RON95 fuel subsidy issue.

"I have no issue (apologising) if it can be verified that there was no proper source. That would be a mistake and I have no problem with that.

"I have asked MCMC to verify the information. Some people have misunderstood it as an investigation into Pagoh (Muhyiddin), but that's not the case.

"I said there are different sources. Whether they are legitimate or not, we must wait for MCMC's investigation."

He said this in response to a supplementary question by Datuk Rosol Wahid (PN-Hulu Terengganu) on whether the prime minister would apologise to Muhyiddin for his claim.

The Tambun member of parliament denied allegations by opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin (PN-Larut) who interjected and said Anwar was evading the truth.

"It is only a matter of verification. I have three sources. One source has been confirmed as false. If the other two sources are proven to be incorrect as well, I have no problem.

"Indeed, if there is a mistake by anyone, based on the sources used, and if confirmed by MCMC, I will explain and apologise to Pagoh."

On Aug 5, Anwar said he received reports that an opposition MP defended the rights of foreigners to receive subsidies.

In a social media post, Muhyiddin denied that he ever defended the rights of foreigners in the RON95 fuel subsidy rationalisation matter.