

Let process unfold, says Anwar on house arrest

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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim called for calm and respect for the judicial process amid mounting calls for jailed former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to be placed under house arrest.

Anwar said the legal process must be allowed to proceed without interference and that differing opinions should be expressed within the bounds of the law.

"There is no issue with the ongoing court proceedings. Everyone is entitled to their views and we respect that. But let the process unfold properly," he said after Friday prayers at Surau Ar-Rahim here.

He was responding to calls from Umno urging the government to enforce a royal addendum that allegedly allows Najib to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki had issued a statement appealing for Najib to be allowed house arrest, citing Article 42(1) of the Constitution, which confers the king the power to grant pardons and reprieves.

The king can pardon or reduce sentences for offences under federal jurisdiction and in court-martial cases.

Asyraf said Umno hoped Najib would finally be granted house arrest more than a year after the decree was made.

On Feb 2 last year, the Federal Territories Pardons Board halved Najib's sentence to six years for misappropriating RM42 million from SRC International.

He may be released as early as Aug 23, 2028.

It was revealed that former Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, as then Pardons Board chair, had issued a royal addendum for Najib to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest.

The Attorney-General's Chambers this week confirmed in court the existence of the royal addendum during its appeal against a judicial review application filed by Najib.

Anwar maintained that matters related to the judiciary must remain free from executive interference.