

# ANWAR: I'VE NEVER MEDDLED IN JUDICIARY

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Announcement today to debunk misconceptions on CJ post, says PM

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday said he has never interfered in the judiciary, including proposing “compromises” to the king on the appointment of top judges.

Anwar also said an announcement would be made today to “debunk the misconceptions” regarding the vacant chief justice’s position following Tengku Tun Maimun Tuan Mat’s retirement.

“This (yesterday) morning, I had a lengthy discussion with

the Conference of Rulers and tomorrow (today), hopefully, there will be an announcement to dispel these so-called negative perceptions,” he said in his speech at Malaysia’s International Conference on Governance and Integrity 2025, here.

“It is unfortunate that yesterday, when you (delegates) arrived, what was being projected was the issue of judicial independence.

“I assure you, in my exceeding two-and-a-half years in office, I’ve not discussed (any case) with any judges. Not one case.

“I adhere to the principles of judicial independence.”

Concerns over judicial independence made the headlines in the past week, owing to the vacancy of the country’s top judge post and leaked Judicial Appointments Committee meeting minutes.

Anwar, in his speech, acknowledged there were concerns due to delays in the appointment of top judges.

These concerns, he said, included supposed nominations of candidates which may be “questionable” to some.

“Let me assure you, this is not the case. I’m sure my friends in the legal practice would respect the fact that we must work based on the law and the facts, not perception.”

Anwar said the Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar also knew this was not the case.

“Names which seem to be compromises were never presented to the king or to the Conference of Rulers.

“So I rest my case, and I hope when the announcement is made, it will prove that this government is committed to reform, including the principle of judicial independence.”