

Clarification on **judicial independence** today

THE SUN
16 JUL 2025

Pg. 2

» Explanation necessary to ensure proper understanding of process, current status of appointments to the judiciary, says Anwar

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PUTRAJAYA: An announcement will be made today to address concerns over judicial independence and ongoing legal reforms following discussions during a pre-council meeting of the Conference of Rulers at Istana Negara yesterday, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the clarification is necessary to ensure that the public understands the process and current status of judicial appointments.

Anwar said the council had likely reached a consensus on the issue and their input would

offer much-needed clarity on the legal and institutional matters currently facing the country.

"I believe their views will be made public by tomorrow to address the related concerns clearly.

"Hopefully, the announcement will put to rest all the negative perceptions surrounding the matter," he said at the Malaysia International Conference on Governance and Integrity 2025.

Anwar reiterated that he has never interfered in any court case since taking office.

"We must work to strengthen the law and ensure institutions function based on facts and due process. Perceptions should be left to politicians. Governance, however, must be based on integrity and principle."

Earlier, DAP secretary-general Anthony Loke said the names of those selected to fill several key vacancies in the judiciary, including the top post of Chief Justice, would be presented to the Conference of Rulers when it convenes today.

He said Anwar had already provided a detailed briefing on the matter to Pakatan Harapan ministers and MPs on Monday, ensuring that coalition backbenchers are

fully informed.

"I think we now have the full picture from the prime minister. Of course, he has updated the Cabinet from time to time but yesterday's session was to give an overall view to our backbenchers," Loke said at a media conference after officiating at the Malaysian Maritime Week 2025.

He said Anwar had made it clear that a decision would be made soon, pending the consent of the Conference of Rulers.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said on Monday that Pakatan Harapan MPs were briefed on the judiciary appointments, among other national matters, during a nearly two-hour meeting with Anwar in Putrajaya.

The country's judiciary leadership is undergoing a transition, following the retirement of Chief Justice Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat who made history in 2019 as the first woman to hold the post.

Her departure has left a vacancy at the top of the Federal Court bench and there are pending appointments to other senior judicial roles.

Chief Judge of Malaya Tan Sri Hasnah Mohammed Hashim is temporarily carrying out the duties of the Chief Justice.



FRESH INSIGHTS ... Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, accompanied by Malaysian High Commissioner to New Zealand Mazita Marzuki, visiting a sheep and dairy farm in Rotorua in New Zealand to review practices in the agriculture and livestock industries that can be emulated in Malaysia. — **BERNAMAPIC**