

FULL SUPPORT NEEDED

PM: GOVT COMMITTED TO REFORMS, TERM LIMIT

However, such efforts must be approached carefully to avoid failure, says Anwar

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim says the government is committed to its institutional reform agenda, including a proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution that would limit the prime minister's tenure to 10 years.

However, he said, any such effort would have to be approached carefully to avoid the risk of failure.

Speaking at DAP's 18th National Congress, the prime minister said any amendment to the Constitution would have to have two-thirds consensus in the Dewan Rakyat.

He said the government must be sure of such support before anything could be tabled, adding

that the government must consider historical events and learn from countries like Poland and the Czech Republic, where reforms had failed partly because they were rushed.

"What sets us apart from the previous government? We are committed to reforms, to the point where some fear they could be detrimental.

"However, those who support reforms are often seen as impatient to see change.

"I want to stress that reforms are unlikely to succeed if implemented hastily or too abruptly.

"From history, we have learnt that reforms carried out in such a manner have often failed.

"This is a proposal that I agree with — to limit the prime minister's tenure to 10 years because we have seen what happens when it extends to 22 years.

"Don't worry about me. I won't even go beyond 10 years... even after just two years, I'm already tired. I, even PKR and PH, agree (with the proposal).

"If we can secure two-thirds majority (in support of the amendment) in the next session, we can amend the Federal Constitution.

"However, we should not table the motion if we do not yet have sufficient support, because we cannot trust the opposition. They can change... their *fatwa* can change all the time," he said.

Present were Parti Amanah Nasional president Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, Pakatan Harapan secretary-general Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution and DAP stalwart Tan Sri Lim Kit Siang.

Also present were DAP secretary-general Anthony Loke and some 4,000 party leaders and delegates.

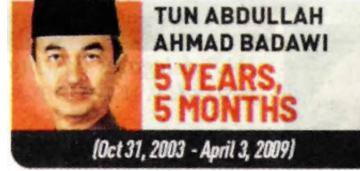
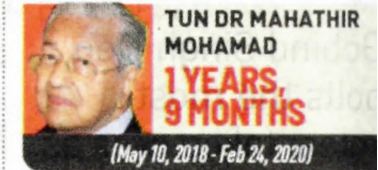
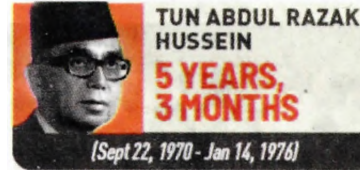
Earlier, Loke expressed hope that the government could amend the Constitution to limit the prime minister's term to 10 years.

The proposal to limit the prime minister's term to 10 years, or two terms, was a key part of the

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime minister

MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTERS' NURE IN OFFICE



PH manifesto in the 14th and 15th general elections.

A bill to amend the Constitution was tabled in December 2019 for first reading, after PH defeated Barisan Nasional in the 2018 general election.

The bill was expected to be debated in Parliament in March the following year, but it did not happen after the collapse of the PH government following the Sheraton Move in February.

Meanwhile, Anwar said within two years, his administration had introduced key financial and

economic reforms, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which required the prime minister to submit economic projections to Parliament.

"We have also introduced the Government Procurement Act to ensure procurement policies and tenders followed procedures.

"We amended the Parliament Services Act to grant greater independence to Parliament, even for the opposition to function neutrally. All of this was accomplished within two years," he said.