

**No Consensus So Government Withdraws Proposal To Increase MPs' Allowance**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Following objections from four senior leaders of the opposition parties, the government has withdrawn a proposal to increase the allowance for members of parliament, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said.

He said Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Parti Keadilan Rakyat deputy president Mohamed Azmin Ali, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng and PAS vice-president Salahuddin Ayub objected to the proposal, which was to involve an allocation of RM30 million.

"I take it that they are speaking on behalf of other members of their respective parties," he told reporters in the parliament lobby Monday.

Tabling the 2012 Budget last Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Razak said the government would review the allowance for MPs if both sides agreed.

Nazri said the proposal also was to include increases in the allowance for research officers, and in the allocation for rentals for MP's offices.

He added that the opposition objected to the proposal prematurely, before the government had an opportunity to present a detailed explanation of the matter, which would cover facilities required by elected representatives.

"The proposal is not to enrich the elected representatives. We know for a fact that elected representatives go to the extent of using their salaries to help the people in their respective areas, Nazri said.

"Junior elected representatives will have problems doing the same with their existing salaries," he said, adding that the monthly salary of RM6,500 for members of parliament in Malaysia is the lowest among counterparts in Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.

He added that a similar proposal might be incorporated in the 2013 Budget.

Meanwhile, Anwar said the opposition objected to the proposal in view of "the economic pressure facing the people."

He added that the allowance increase was not proper at a time when the people are facing hike in prices and the absence of minimum wage of RM1,100.

"I did not say that the increase in the allowance under the proposal is too high; it's just that we need to think of other things first for the people," he said.

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