

Pakatan Rakyat to table budget in October
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SHAH ALAM (Aug 2, 2011): The Pakatan Rakyat (PR) Budget, to be tabled in October, will continue with its policies to promote economic growth and programmes that directly benefit the people, said Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Speaking after chairing PR's first round table meeting with economists, market analysts, consumer groups as well as labour union leaders at the state secretariat here today, Anwar said the meeting was held to discuss immediate steps which could be implemented to control rising inflation and high costs of living.

"There will be several more meetings held to gather feedback from stakeholders and the outcome will be compiled into the Pakatan Rakyat Budget, to be tabled in October," he added.

Anwar stressed the coalition's opposition to the government's subsidy rationalisation scheme, insisting that there was enough funds to continue subsidising basic necessities such as rice and fuel.

"It is wrong to say that there are not enough funds to continue providing subsidies. Subsidies should be given to the poor, not the rich," said the PKR de facto chief during the press conference.

Also present were Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu and PKR Johor chief Datuk Chua Jui Meng, among others.

On another matter, Anwar dismissed rumours that there were talks between PR leaders and Amanah president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, with the latter being touted as his replacement.

PAS Ulama Chief Datuk Harun Taib had, on Sunday, reportedly said there is a possibility that Tengku Razaleigh will be succeeding Anwar as opposition leader.

"Pakatan Rakyat will be monitoring Ku Li's performance. If he has many followers or received majority support from opposition parties, there is a chance that he could be appointed as the next opposition leader," said Harun.