

Muhyiddin: Anwar acquittal will boost confidence in Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, Jan 10 — Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin declared today that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's acquittal would increase the confidence of Malaysians and the international community in Datuk Seri Najib Razak's transformation promises.

The deputy prime minister rubbished opposition claims that the Kuala Lumpur High Court ruling yesterday, that Anwar was not guilty of sodomy, was politically-motivated to help Barisan Nasional (BN) in the coming general election.

He echoed the views of other BN leaders in proclaiming that the court's decision proved the country's judiciary was independent and free from political interference.

"Our stand, like what the PM has said, is that it has clearly been proven that the courts and the judiciary is free from interference, whether from the executive or from politics.

"I am sure that it (the decision) will increase the confidence of Malaysians and the international community in Najib's persistence in leading the country's transformation process into a better future," Muhyiddin (picture) told a press conference at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre here today.

Trial judge Mohd Zabidin Mohd Diah ruled yesterday that the prosecution had not done enough to prove Anwar had committed sodomy against former aide Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

Anwar, 64, was similarly indicted of sodomy over a decade ago and found guilty. He spent six years in jail before being exonerated.

The former deputy prime minister has maintained that his prosecution for sodomy was politically motivated and a plot to kill his political career.

But Muhyiddin insisted today that such claims were disproven with the court's "not guilty" verdict, saying that the decision was made on the platform of an independent judiciary.

"So this clearly shows that this can improve the people's confidence in Malaysia.

"The practice of democracy... and the institutions of government — the executive, legislative and judiciary — three branches that work together but each enjoy respective freedom," he said.

He added that Umno and BN's preparation for the coming polls would continue as usual, and would have proceeded in the same manner even if Anwar had been jailed.

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