

**Royal address not prepared by BN says former Dewan Rakyat speaker**  
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**By Elizabeth Zachariah**

Former Dewan Rakyat deputy speaker Datuk Dr Wan Junaidi Jaafar denied allegations by Pakatan Rakyat leaders that the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah's Royal Address was prepared by the Barisan Nasional government.

In his address, the King had called on all parties to accept the results of the 13th General Election.

The former deputy speaker explained that the government only advised the King on the Royal Address at the 13th Parliament today.

"Tuanku still has his own discretion in the matter," he said in response to allegations from the Pakatan Rakyat members of parliament.

Wan Junaidi, who is also Santubong MP, also denied that the text of the address was prepared by the prime minister's office.

"That was prepared by the palace," he added.

Pakatan Rakyat has refused to accept the results of the recently concluded polls and have even demanded for the en-bloc resignation of the Election Commission to resign.

The King, however, in his address said the elections were held in a democratic manner and called on all MPs to work towards achieving Vision 2020.

Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the King's opening address was not an instruction but could be debated in the House.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremonial opening of Dewan Rakyat, he said as usual, the speech from the throne had been submitted by the prime minister.

"While we appreciate and are thankful to the King for his speech, it is also meant to be debated. That is the principle," he added.

Anwar, who said that he had been part of the speech committee when he was deputy prime minister pre-1998, acknowledged that mainstream media would interpret the King's speech as an instruction. - June 25, 2013.

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