

More Supplementary Budgets When Anwar Was Finance Minister, Dewan Rakyat Told
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 16 (Bernama) -- Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan revealed today ministry records showed that more supplementary budgets were sought and approved when Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was the finance minister in the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

He said the records showed that 29 supplementary budgets were sought and approved during the eight years that Anwar helmed the ministry from 1991.

However, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, in his capacity as the finance minister, had only sought eight supplementary budgets since 2009.

Ahmad came up with the comparison of the figures in response to Anwar's stated assumption that implementing supplementary budgets could undermine national economic growth and raise debts.

He was winding up debate on the Supplementary Supply Bill (2012) 2013 in the Dewan Rakyat.

Ahmad said that when Anwar was the finance minister, there were four supplementary budgets between 1991 and 1995; three in 1996; four in 1997 and two in 1998 when he was sacked.

He also said that the average national debt was 40.6 per cent of GDP between 1999 and 2008.

Between 1990 and 1997, the debt was 53.6 per cent, he added.

Ahmad said the country was in a better position in terms of national debt compared to many other countries.

The House will sit again tomorrow.

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