

Anwar's Family Submits Petition For Royal Pardon
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's family on Tuesday submitted a petition for a royal pardon to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong over the sodomy conviction of the Opposition leader.

Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) vice-president Tian Chua said the petition was handed over to the Istana Negara at 3.30 pm.

It was submitted under Rule 113, Prison Rules 2000, he said when contacted by Bernama.

The Istana Negara has confirmed receiving the petition.

According to the Rule, if a prisoner wants to file a petition to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan or Raja or Yang Dipertua Negeri, can do so as soon as possible after conviction. After that, three years from the date of conviction and thereafter, after lapses of two years.

Tian Chua said the petition was being filed based on the belief of the PKR advisor's family that there was a miscarriage of justice when he (Anwar) was convicted of having sodomised his former aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, 34.

"With this petition, the family seeks the intervention of the palace to pardon Anwar," he said.

Tian Chua said a copy of the petition had been handed over to the Dewan Rakyat Speaker at Parliament House later in the afternoon.

He explained that the petition was submitted to get justice for Anwar, who is also PKR de facto leader, and not because they wanted him to continue to be the Member of Parliament for Permatang Pauh.

"His position as MP is no longer an issue, it is up to the Speaker whether he wants to declare the seat (Permatang Pauh) vacant. This is about justice for him," he said.

Anwar is currently serving a five-year jail sentence at the Sungai Buloh Prison in Selangor after the Federal Court on Feb 10 rejected his appeal against his conviction and the jail sentence by the Court of Appeal for sodomising Mohd Saiful Bukhari in 2008.

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