

Nurul Izzah heads to US to plead for dad's surgery

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By Amin Iskandar

Nurul Izzah Anwar left for the United States last night in an attempt to pile international pressure on Putrajaya to get immediate medical attention for her father, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who needs urgent surgery for a shoulder injury.

The desperate move, she told The Malaysian Insider, was because the panel of doctors treating Anwar in Kuala Lumpur had recommended immediate surgery, but Putrajaya appears to be dragging its feet.

"I will be meeting US State Department officials, politicians, civil society leaders and international lawyers to explain my father's situation," she told The Malaysian Insider.

Anwar is serving a five-year jail sentence at the Sungai Buloh jail for sodomising his former aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

Nurul Izzah added that she would also brief American officials on the alleged scandals involving Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, including the RM2.6 billion donation channelled into his personal accounts and the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) issue.

The PKR vice-president said she will also bring up human rights issues in Malaysia, including the use of the Sedition Act against opposition politicians and civil society leaders, adding that she will be assisted by US human rights lawyer Jared Genser, who had previously filed an application to the United Nations working group on Anwar's incarceration.

However, Nurul Izzah said the main focus of her US visit is to get help for her father.

"Anwar needs immediate surgery and this was proposed by a panel of doctors chosen by the Health Ministry," said Nurul Izzah who is also Lembah Pantai MP.

She said the panel of doctors had proposed that Anwar undergo micro surgery or shoulder replacement, however, she said that Putrajaya was dragging its feet.

Nurul Izzah said she hoped that international support could help their cause.

"I'm not seeking favours from America. Najib is also close to US President Barack Obama," she said, referring to the close relationship between Najib and Obama.

Last week, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, accompanied by Nurul Izzah and another daughter, Nurul Nuha, met Health Ministry director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, on Anwar's treatment.

"After the discussion, we were given the guarantee that the D-G will take steps to

improve Anwar's treatment, but this has not happened," she added.

However, the Health Ministry's deputy director-general Datuk Dr S. Jeyaindran refuted Nurul Izzah's claim.

He told The Malaysian Insider in an SMS text message that Anwar is currently being treated by a panel of 14 consultants, all of whom are well experienced.

"They have recommended treatment for the chronic shoulder injury," he said.

He said the family was given copies of the panel's findings and had, among other options, suggested surgery.

He said the panel had also invited several opinion leaders to examine Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and they had given their views on his condition.

"They gave him their verbal opinion but have just submitted their report to us.

"We are now making arrangements for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to be examined by the doctor that his family had consulted," he said in the message. – September 15, 2015.

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