

# The King, the Prime Minister and the Budget

## Sept 23

- Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim declares that he has a "formidable" number of MPs backing him to form a new government.

- The palace later confirms that Datuk Seri Anwar has also secured an audience with the King to discuss his majority support, but the meeting is postponed when the King is hospitalised.



- On the same day, Umno president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi says he knows of "many" MPs from his party who support Mr Anwar.

- This raises the question whether Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, who controls just 113 MPs in the 222-strong Parliament, has lost his majority.

## Oct 2

- The King, Sultan Abdullah Ahmad Shah, returns to the palace after 12 days in hospital.

## Oct 13

- Mr Anwar has an audience with the King, where he says he "presented a list of a convincing majority of Members of Parliament who support me".

- But the palace says Mr Anwar did not give a list of lawmakers' names to verify his claim.

- In the evening, Umno threatens to leave Tan Sri Muhyiddin's Perikatan Nasional (PN) government, unless its "fresh terms" are met.



## Oct 21

- Zahid, who is believed to have demanded key ministerial posts for his supporters, announces a political ceasefire among parties in the PN.

- He says Umno will now fully back the Muhyiddin government.



## Oct 22

- Reports emerge of a special Cabinet meeting the next day as the government frets over its majority in Parliament.

- The PN government will collapse if it is unable to get next year's Budget passed when it is presented in Parliament on Nov 6.

- The collapse will trigger a snap election, which could prove disastrous amid a spike in Covid-19 cases.

## Oct 23

**9.30am:** Mr Muhyiddin convenes a special Cabinet meeting in the morning which, sources say, discussed imposing emergency measures. The meeting is attended by Armed Forces chief Affendi Buang, Inspector-General of Police Abdul Hamid Bador and Attorney-General Idrus Harun.



**After 1pm:** The Prime Minister flies to Kuantan, Pahang to meet the King at his palace.

**4.45pm:** Mr Muhyiddin's convoy enters Istana Abdul Aziz for the meeting. He is believed to have sought the King's consent to declare an "economic emergency", which will allow the government to approve the Budget without going through Parliament.

**7.30pm:** The premier leaves the palace.

**9pm:** His aircraft lands in Kuala Lumpur.

