

# King: Parliament can convene

It can meet on a date deemed appropriate by His Majesty, says aide

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**PETALING JAYA:** Parliament can convene during the current state of emergency, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah has decreed.

Comptroller of the Royal Household of Istana Negara Datuk Ahmad Fadil Shamsuddin said the King's view was that Parliament could be convened on a date deemed appropriate by His Majesty, upon the advice of the Prime Minister.

He said the King, in an audience granted to Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun and Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim yesterday, stressed that Malaysia practised democracy based on the Federal Constitution and the Executive, Judiciary and Parliament must adhere to these principles.

Ahmad Fadil said as enshrined under paragraph 14(1)(b) of the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance 2021, Parliament must be called, prorogued and dissolved on a date deemed appropriate by



**In the front line:** The King with Azhar (right) and Rais after the meeting.  
— Photo courtesy of Istana Negara

the King, on the advice of the Prime Minister.

"As such, the perception by some parties that the proclamation of Emergency will prevent Parliament from sitting is inaccurate," Ahmad Fadil said in a statement issued yesterday.

The King had proclaimed a state

of emergency nationwide from Jan 12 to Aug 1 as a proactive measure to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ahmad Fadil said it must be stressed that the King had given consent to the Prime Minister on the Emergency Proclamation on Jan 12 merely as a proactive step to curb the spread of the pandemic

which had claimed more than 1,000 lives in the country thus far.

During the session, he said His Majesty had also taken note of matters relating to culture, heritage and ethics, and spoke of the need for MPs and senators to be more honourable and ethical in their debates and actions.

On Covid-19, he said the King expressed appreciation to the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and other relevant government agencies on their efforts to realise the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme which kicked off yesterday and will be implemented in stages.

"His Majesty also expressed highest gratitude to our frontliners for their sacrifices, regardless of time and energy, in the fight against the pandemic, and called on the rakyat to offer their prayers for the country to be protected and free from the pandemic as soon as possible," said Ahmad Fadil.

Watch the video  
**TheStarTV.com**

