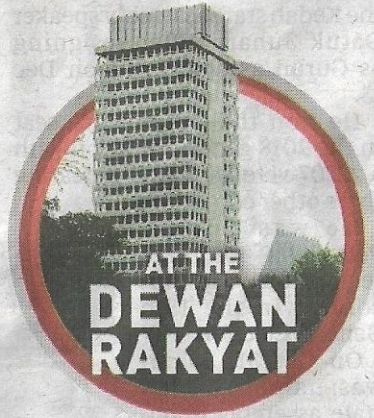


A DEWAN SIGHT TO BEHOLD

Former rival members of parliament now seated next to each other



KUALA LUMPUR

“POLITICS makes strange bedfellows” is a well-known phrase and nothing could be further from this than the political arrangement after the 15th General Election (GE15).

This was made more obvious in the Dewan Rakyat seating arrangement yesterday.

It was strange to see rival members of parliament (MPs) seated next to each other and former allies seating across the aisle.

The seating arrangements saw a change after the formation of the unity government.

MPs from political coalitions and parties — including Pakatan Harapan (PH), Barisan Nasional (BN) and Gabungan Parti

Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (PH-Bandar Tun Razak) and Lim Guan Eng (PH-Bagan).

Enemies are now allies in the unity government.

In the opposition bloc, Perikatan Nasional (PN), comprising Bersatu and Pas MPs, were seated together.

The opposition leader’s seat was filled by Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin.(PN-Larut), followed by Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (PN-Pagoh), Tan Sri Abdul Hadi Awang (PN-Marang) and Datuk Seri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man (PN-Kubang Kerian).

Also seen in the opposition bloc

occupying blocs C and D.

Blocs E, F and G, which are opposite the government aisle, are occupied by the opposition.

The prime minister, who sits in the first seat in bloc A, directly faces the opposition leader, who seats in the first seat in bloc G.

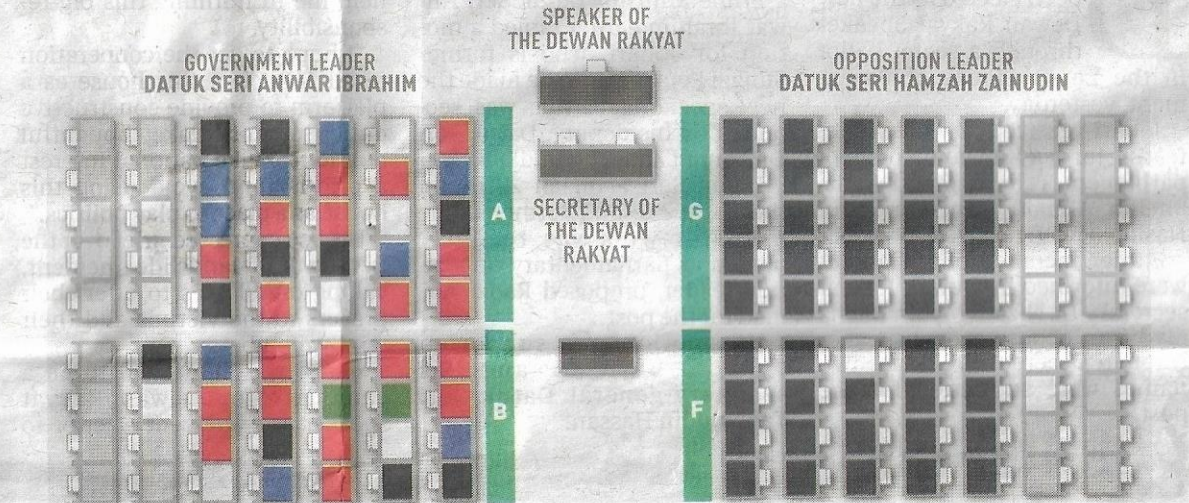
Bloc D sees a mixture of government and opposition backbenchers.

According to the Standing Order 2 (1) of the Dewan Rakyat, on the first day of the meeting of the house after a general election and thereafter until a seat has been allotted to each member, members shall be seated in accor-

dance with such arrangement as the lower house secretary determines.

The last time extensive change in seating arrangement happened was following the 2020 Sheraton Move and the subsequent takeover of the government by PN with a majority of 113 out of 222 MPs.

PARLIAMENT SEATING ARRANGEMENT



Sarawak (GPS) — sat together in one bloc for the first time.

They were at odds with each other before GE15 and had sat on opposite sides of the aisle.

An interesting sight was that the seat reserved for Parliament council chief is now occupied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (PH-Tambun) with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (BN-Bagan Datuk) seated next to him.

Meanwhile, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (BN-Sembrong) was seated next to Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman (PH-Muar).

Former prime minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob (BN-Bera) was seated between Datuk

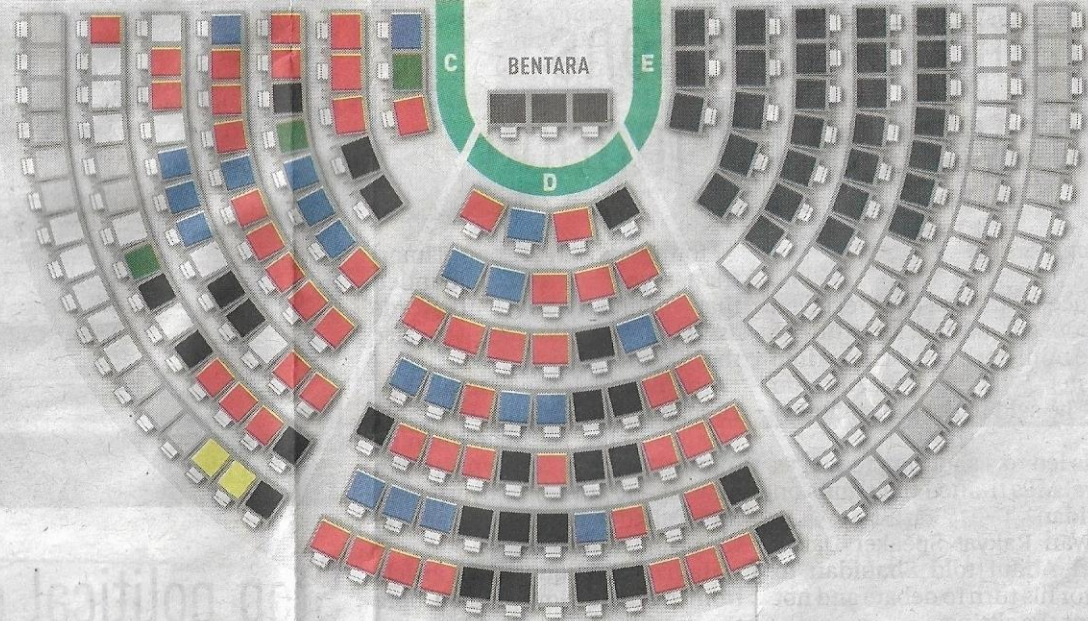
was former Umno leader Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim (PN-Arau), who sat next to Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah (PN-Indera Mahkota).

No coalition or party secured a majority in GE15.

A unity government was formed after PH (PKR, DAP and Amanah), BN, GPS, Gabungan Rakyat Sabah and Warisan agreed to work together following Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's decree.

Meanwhile, the U-shaped seating arrangement is made up of seven blocs labelled A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

Blocs A and B are occupied by ministers and deputy ministers, with government backbenchers



PRAYER TIMES

	SUBUH (am)	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR (pm)	MAGRIB	ISYAK
Melaka	5:56	7:09	1:11	4:34	7:09	8:24
Penang	6:08	7:20	1:18	4:40	7:12	8:27
K. Lumpur	6:00	7:12	1:13	4:36	7:10	8:25
Johor Baru	5:48	7:02	1:05	4:29	7:05	8:20
Kuantan	5:53	7:07	1:08	4:31	7:05	8:20
Ipoh	6:04	7:15	1:16	4:39	7:11	8:26



Data from Parliament portal at 7pm