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Anwar-Corruption

DON'T VIEW CORRUPTION LIGHTLY, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today warned the people that corruption would become a culture that could lead to the country's downfall if the people regard it as a normal practice.

The Deputy Prime Minister said history had shown that great Islamic and Western empires had collapsed because social problems like corruption were not only taken lightly but had become acceptable to all strata of society.

"Of greater worry is that we may begin to accept this crime of corruption as a fact of life. If you want a contract, there is a fee. If you wish to get facilities, you have to pay. If you want to win a case, there is also a fee to it," he said.

"If this view and perception are to prevail and corruption allowed to happen, the whole community will be destroyed," he said when launching the recording of the Forum Perdana Ehwat Islam jointly organised by the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), Pusat Islam and RTM at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

The panellists for the two-series forum entitled "Antara Rasuah dan Keberkatan Rezeki" and "Pemimpin Berwibawa" are Perak State Mufti Datuk Haji Harussani Zakaria, Associate Prof Datuk Haji Hashim Yahaya of Universiti Islam Antarabangsa and Ustaz Haji Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man of Institut Teknologi Mara in Pahang.

The forum was chaired by motivation expert from the Human Potential Development Institute (INSPEM) Roslan Kassim.

Anwar, who is Finance Minister, said the people should instil in themselves a hatred of bribery to ensure the well-being of the future generations.

Describing corruption as something to be feared, he said efforts to combat it should be carried out not only among government officers or politicians but also in the private sector.

"A private sector not sensitive to and not concerned about this problem is actually one out to rob and destroy the social institution in our society," he said.

"It will indeed be very worrying if we accept corruption as a fact of life and a permanent component of business transactions and dealings with the government."

He said everybody had a moral responsibility to check corruption from becoming a culture and a seemingly acceptable practice.

On the part of the government, Anwar said he and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would always support the ACA's role in fighting this menace.

-- BERNAMA

AH YBY