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Anwar-Corruption

ANWAR DENIES ONLY CERTAIN GROUPS PROSECUTED

KUALA LUMPUR, June 9 (Bernama) -- Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today dismissed allegations that the government only act against the "small fry" in its fight against corruption.

"Such a perception is totally incorrect as we have to act based on evidence irrespective of a small fry or the top people," he told reporters after opening the Asia Oil and Gas Conference '97 here.

"We leave it the Anti Corruption Agency (ACA) to take appropriate action and we cannot meddle in investigations," he said.

Anwar said that investigations must be based on information received.

In this respect, he said that investigations conducted should exonerate those who are not involved.

He also said that top officials and political leaders should be allowed to do their own job.

"At the same time, we also give the ACA a free hand to monitor them," he said.

"So therefore, if there are reports of abuse, they should be sent to the ACA," he said.

When laying the foundation stone for the Jerlun Umno division building in Alor Setar yesterday, Anwar said that action would be taken against those suspected of being corrupt including top people like Umno leaders, Barisan Nasional component party leaders and government officials.

He said that there would be absolutely no compromise in wiping out corruption in the country in accordance with the message given by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the government should be firm on the matter.

Earlier, when presenting excellent service awards to Treasury staff, Anwar reminded government officers to work harder in line with a trustworthy civil service concept.

Anwar also ticked off government officers who live a life of luxury eventhough their lifestyle did not reflect their actual income. -- BERNAMA

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