



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting people at a breaking-of-fast event organised by the Home Ministry in Sungai Petani on Friday. PIC BY SYAHARIM ABIDIN

'MAJOR EMBARRASSMENT'

336KG DRUG HAUL: PM VOWS STERN ACTION

Anwar orders multiagency probe into RM790m drug consignment that landed in Brisbane

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for a multiagency investigation into how 336kg of heroin worth nearly RM790 million were smuggled last month from Port Klang to Brisbane, Australia.

Anwar said it would be a major embarrassment if it were confirmed that the heroin haul, the second biggest in Australian history, indeed originated from a Malaysian port.

"If it is true, it is embarrassing if it originated from Port Klang.

"How did it go undetected (by the port authority)? How did the same smuggling effort happen 12 or 16 times undetected until it was uncovered by Australian authorities?" Anwar asked at a breaking-of-fast event organised by the Home Ministry here on Friday.

Present were Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Dewan Rakyat Speaker

Datuk Johari Abdul and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani.

Following the huge drug haul in Brisbane, Anwar said, he had instructed the Customs Department to launch an investigation.

"I have asked the police's Criminal Investigation Department and Commercial Crime Investigation Department to assist the investigation.

"I hope to get the report within one or two weeks. We need to know what happened. We must not compromise and we will take stern action."

Last month, Australia seized 336kg of heroin worth A\$268.8 million (RM789.56 million) from a container sent from Malaysia to Brisbane, the second biggest shipment ever detected.

The Australian Federal Police last week said the seizure was made by the Australian Border Force on March 13 when they found the drugs hidden in two blocks of concrete weighing 500kg each.

On Tuesday, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the ministry was investigating the port responsible for shipping the heroin to Brisbane.

Loke, who described it as a serious offence, said the ministry would probe into the port used by a cartel to ship the prohibited items.

Meanwhile, in a get-together with federal and state civil servants at Universiti Teknologi

Mara (UiTM) in Permatang Pauh earlier, Anwar said he needed a few years to prove that the unity government was able to practise good governance and do away with the practice of "sakau" (kleptocracy).

He said success in eliminating corrupt practices would lead to an increase in revenue and enable the government to share its wealth with the people.

"The government needs to right corrupt practices, or kleptocracy, which not only involve certain individuals but also the system (as a whole).

"This is not something easy as corrupt practices or kleptocracy have spread to all levels of the government administration.

"We are not only known as a country with diverse races or impressive economic performance but also for the 1Malaysia Development Bhd scandal."

Anwar said since he came into office, he had opened several government files and found several decisions made in the past year or two filled with fraud and greed by the leaders.

"I don't care... either Chinese or Malay, or from which party. I have asked the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to act professionally with data and facts.

"If there is a case, the attorney-general can take prosecution action as a lesson to others."

Page 1 pic: Container trucks waiting at Northport in Port Klang, Selangor.