

Anwar: Minister doesn't need to resign as he is not charged

KUALA LUMPUR: There is no need for Human Resources Minister V. Sivakumar to resign after graft-busters arrested his senior officer over allegations of corruption.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said this was because Sivakumar had not been charged with anything.

"(For example) if, as the prime minister I am asked to explain (about anything to the authorities), I cannot be immediately stepping down.

"We have to differentiate between investigating (and being charged). The investigations are ongoing.

"I leave it to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) (to conduct it)."

Anwar said this after launching the *Sayr Al-Salikin* and *Hikayat Iskandar Zulkarnain* books at Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka here.

The MACC had on Sunday summoned Sivakumar to have his statement recorded in connec-

tion with investigations into alleged corruption in his ministry relating to the recruitment of migrant workers.

Sivakumar's aide had been arrested recently in connection with the case.

Anwar said people should not make any assumption on the matter, and reiterated his stand against corruption.

"On the issue of governance and fighting corruption, we are firm. We do not care who we offend, who the person is or which party they belong

to. That is our stand."

Earlier, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said Sivakumar had not been asked to take a leave of absence because the latter was not a suspect.

He said Sivakumar had extended his cooperation to MACC, and the DAP, of which the latter is a member, was monitoring the development of the MACC probe.

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**DATUK SERI ANWAR
IBRAHIM**
Prime minister