

No need for Sivakumar to go on leave now: Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will leave it to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to carry out investigations involving Human Resources Minister V. Sivakumar and his officials with regard to allegations over the recruitment of foreign workers, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He also urged the public not to make any presumptions on the issue.

"We have to differentiate between the process of an investigation and being charged. So, we leave the investigation to the MACC.

"Then, if there are no charges, it's fine, and if there are, that would be another matter altogether," he said after launching the *Sayr Al-Salikin's Masterpiece* (4 Volumes) and

> Govt will leave it to MACC to conduct investigations involving minister, officials over graft allegations, says PM

Hikayat Iskandar Zulkarnain at Wisma Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka yesterday.

Asked if Sivakumar needed to go on leave until the investigations were completed, Anwar said at the moment, there are no charges against the minister.

"There are no charges yet. In an investigation, (for example) even myself as the prime minister would have to comply by providing an explanation. I wouldn't have to resign (at that point), would I?"

Anwar said the unity

government led by him remained firm over matters related to governance and fighting corruption.

"In this matter, we don't care if it offends anyone, no matter who the figure or which party it involves. That is our position."

Meanwhile, DAP secretary-general and Transport Minister Anthony Loke said Anwar had not issued any directive for Sivakumar to be relieved from his post following the arrest of his officers.

"So far, there has been no such

instruction from the prime minister for Sivakumar to take leave," Loke said at a media conference yesterday regarding flight ticket prices in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Loke added that the MACC was still investigating the case.

"We (DAP) are monitoring the development of the case."

On Sunday, Sivakumar, who is also Batu Gajah MP, was present at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya to provide his statement on the case, believed to be related to foreign worker recruitment contracts.

MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki confirmed yesterday that Sivakumar was summoned to the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya to assist with investigations following the arrest of several of his officers, believed to be over allegations of graft in the recruitment of foreign workers.

MACC recently arrested two of Sivakumar's senior officers, believed to be linked to the issue.

Meanwhile, Sivakumar denied reports that his office and home were raided by MACC yesterday, *Bernama* reported.

"Nothing, there was nothing," he said when asked about media reports that MACC had raided his office and residence to complete investigations into allegations of him receiving millions of ringgit through middlemen to continue receiving government contracts.

Sivakumar, who was met by reporters after the soft launch of the National Training Week 2023 yesterday, said he was at the MACC headquarters on Sunday to have his statement recorded.

"I was not arrested. I was there to give my statement and I told them that I would cooperate."

Asked if MACC would be calling him again, Sivakumar said: "No"

He added that he and the Human Resources Ministry would extend full cooperation to MACC in the course of the probe.

"Investigations are ongoing and if there is anything (that requires additional information), we will give our full cooperation, that's all."



Sivakumar fielding questions from media personnel in Putrajaya yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**