

'NURUL IZZAH WON'T ABUSE POSITION'

She will protect, pursue agenda of good governance and incorruptibility, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday gave an assurance that his daughter, Nurul Izzah, who was appointed as his senior adviser on economics and finance, will not abuse her position.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said he respected the views of "concerned citizens" and reiterated that Nurul Izzah would not receive any remuneration.

"I have given my explanation. One, she will not receive any remuneration. Two, there is no possibility of her using that position to influence decisions on tenders or contracts.

"I need her expertise to assist me and let me emphasise that she is there to protect and pursue the agenda of (good) governance and



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim leaving the PKR headquarters in Petaling Jaya yesterday, PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI

incorruptibility," he said at the PKR headquarters here.

He added that he took a "strong position" against those who had criticised this appointment, especially those whom he claimed had "awarded billions to sons or sons-in-law or cronies" when they were in power.

Anwar, however, did not disclose any names.

Last Sunday, Anwar confirmed Nurul Izzah's appointment, and said that her duty as his adviser was to ensure transparency in the administration and to monitor tender procurement procedures to ensure that they were done in an orderly manner.

He also told Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) that it was as clean as it claimed to be,

it should not be afraid that its accounts were being investigated by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

He said Bersatu leaders should be ready to provide explanations when needed and allow the authorities to act freely.

The authorities, he said, included police, the Inland Revenue Board, MACC, and even the

judiciary.

"When Umno's accounts were frozen, (Bersatu president) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin supported MACC's professional responsibility.

"Now, it's happening to Bersatu, involving large amounts (of money), and (the case) was linked to several government decisions made under (Muhyiddin's) leadership."

Anwar, who is Pakatan Harapan chairman, reminded political leaders not to use religion to justify acts of corruption.

"It is impossible that any religion can be used to defend corruption and power abuse, especially Islam.

"If you are clean, you don't have to be afraid," he added.

MACC confirmed on Wednesday that it had frozen Bersatu's accounts to enable the graft-busters to investigate funds believed to have been obtained from illegal proceeds.

Investigations were conducted under the MACC Act 2009 and Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

Anwar previously denied claims that his government was interfering in MACC's probe into Bersatu.