



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly gathering at Perdana Putra yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

## MANY CASES OF MISCONDUCT

# PM: REPORT ANY FORM OF ABUSE

Anwar says civil servants should report irregularities even if it involves him

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**C**IVIL servants should not be afraid to report any form of abuse, even if it involves the prime minister, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Emphasising enforcement, Anwar yesterday said he had seen many files, particularly those from the Finance Ministry, and found many cases of misconduct.

He said one cannot fault officers for abiding by the minutes given by a minister, let alone the prime minister.

"But I gave clear instructions. If there are (meeting) minutes, even if it came from the prime minister, deemed as a breach of regulations and laws, I should be informed first.

"What more if it is from officers from my office, the deputy prime minister's office or minister's," he said at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly assembly at Dataran Perdana, Perdana Putra.

Present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali and Religious Affairs Minister Senator

Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar.

This was Anwar's first monthly assembly with the department's staff this year and the second since he became prime minister in November.

Anwar expressed gratitude to civil servants who stuck to their sense of responsibility and received well his remarks on contracts with high commissions and unreasonable costs.

He said he was not pointing fingers, but merely stating facts.

"We cannot succeed as a nation if leakages and wastages are very high.

"Many officers are unaware. When there are instructions (from higher-ups), they have to abide by them or risk being transferred.

"This is why I hope you give your cooperation and continue to bring the nation to greater heights."

In Kangar later, Anwar vowed he would never allow any massive corruption in his administration.

He called on all quarters across the political divide to work together to ensure the country would not be tainted by large-scale corruption and power abuse ever again.

Anwar told civil servants to discard the permissive mentality and uphold democratic accountability to prevent such shameful cases from recurring.

"My duty is to bring change to the country so that we will no longer be tainted by large-scale power abuse and corruption scandals.

"I have travelled to many countries, and everywhere I went, I keep getting asked about 1MDB

(1Malaysia Development Bhd) and how power abuses on such a large scale could happen in this country.

"It happened because many of us have accepted the permissive mentality by being tolerant of small scale corruption.

"Almost all huge contracts have leakages and commissions and, in some cases, the amount is large," Anwar said in a special address to 1,200 civil servants from federal agencies in Perlis.

Present were Perlis Menteri Besar Mohd Shukri Ramli and State Secretary Datuk Seri Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad.

In an immediate response, former anti-corruption advisory board member Datuk Seri Akhbar Satar praised Anwar for giving a lot of emphasis to fighting corruption.

"It's a good start (to Anwar's administration) and motivates staff to report graft.

"It's a very good announcement as government servants are directly exposed (to graft) and his statement will encourage more civil servants to come out and report any abuse or corruption they may know about.

"Civil servants cannot prevent politicians from interfering. But they can report the matter bravely to the authorities.

"Plus, now when they expose graft, they will be protected under the Whistleblower Act."

He advised Anwar to remain independent and not get involved in Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission investigations. Additional reporting by and Kalbana Perimbanayagam