

ANWAR: CASH HANDOUT TO WIN VOTES IS CORRUPTION

It will harm society, affect nation's development, warns PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the distribution of alms, including monetary contributions, to people with the intention to win votes in the run-up to the 15th General Election (GE15) is tantamount to corruption.

Anwar said corruption would not only harm society but also affect the development of the nation.

"(Handing out) alms (for) charity is okay, but alms for votes in the general election is corruption," he said, without singling out any political party or political leader.

He was speaking at Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow's Chinese New Year open house at the Spice Arena here yesterday.

His remarks came on the heels of Pas president Tan Sri Abdul Hadi Awang's statement that giving money to voters ahead of GE15 was charity.

Pas has come under fire after video clips, allegedly showing party leaders handing out cash to voters, surfaced.

Hadi reportedly said that it was the public's right to give



A screengrab of a video clip allegedly showing an individual asking voters to swear that they will vote for Pas before handing out cash to them before the 15th General Election in November.

money, adding that the law stated that only candidates and their representatives could not give cash handouts during campaigning.

Anwar said he had high hopes

and confidence that Malaysia would be able to rise again to become a developed country in the region.

"But political leaders, high-ranking civil servants and en-

forcement agencies must not loot the nation's wealth.

"I will not tolerate the attitude of those who use contracts or projects to take advantage of wealth that is not their right."