

'FIRM PRINCIPLES'

RETURN STOLEN WEALTH, TWO FORMER LEADERS TOLD

PM says he cannot forgive people who stole money from the rakyat, betrayed the Malays

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has demanded that "two former national leaders" return the wealth they had allegedly accumulated through illegal means or face investigation.

Saying he could forgive people who sent him to prison, he however could not do so for those who stole money from the rakyat and betrayed the Malays.

Speaking at the Jelajah Perpaduan Madani event and the launch of the Kelantan election machinery for the state polls, Anwar took a swipe at these unnamed leaders.

"Many quarters blame us (when-ever action is taken against political figures for a possible crime). We (the unity government) are just doing our job. We want to take care of the Malays.

"We have governed the country for almost eight months now, and we are firm in our principles (in rejecting corruption and abuse of power).

"The Chinese community and DAP supporters have no problem with that.



Prime Minister and PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Deputy Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi posing for a group photograph at the Jelajah Perpaduan Madani event and the launch of the Kelantan election machinery for the state polls in Machang on Sunday. PIC BY NIK ABDULLAH NIK OMAR

"With the power and position I have, I will defend the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and uphold the country's judicial independence," he said.

Anwar said if the former leaders were truly the champions of the Malays, they should surrender those assets to be given to the poor.

"Do you really want to help the Malays? Then sell your properties in London and Australia. Sell

your jet (plane). Give (the proceeds) to the poor.

"They did not respond.

"I've said it three times, including tonight. They must return the money that they stole from the rakyat.

"If not, I will ask the authorities to go to their homes and offices to check their accounts."

Anwar also reiterated that the government, and himself in particular, would get blamed should that happen.

"When someone had a problem with the royals, it is Anwar's fault.

"The one that reported the matter was the royal council.

"The arrest was made by the police.

"The charges were laid by the attorney-general... but (people say) it's Anwar's fault," the prime minister said, referring to the sedition charges against caretaker Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor.