



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at an event at Masjid Jamek An-Nur in Kampung Guar Perahu, Permatang Pauh, yesterday. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

NO COMPROMISE PLEDGE

'PLUNDERERS OUT TO GET ME OVER GRAFT WAR'

PM vows to continue battling corruption despite receiving numerous threats

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said "wealthy people" who had plundered billions of

ringgit from the country are conspiring against him because of his battle against corruption. Without disclosing names, he said he had received numerous threats but remained undeterred.

"I have received all sorts of threats. These rich people who have stolen billions are now ganging up against me. I have no issues with that.

"They are resorting to the 'Hidup Melayu' agenda and others. I will continue to fight no matter what," he said at an event at Masjid Jamek An-Nur in Kampung Guar Perahu here yesterday.

Anwar said the authorities were investigating wrongdoings in previous administrations.

"We will not tolerate (this). In-

vestigations are going on independently by the authorities. You *sakau* (plunder), you answer to the authorities," he said.

The prime minister also denied claims that his battle against corruption was actually a campaign of vengeance, following a number of politicians being charged in court with corruption.

Anwar said he bore no grudges against anyone and neither had he directed the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to investigate anyone.

"If anyone is being investigated by the MACC, that's MACC doing its job. I did not order it," he said.

"It is not my job to investigate. Yet, there are people accusing me of seeking revenge. That is not true," said.

Anwar said he would cooperate with the authorities if he was suspected of corruption. He said after seven months of holding the highest office in the country, no privileges were given to his family.

"But the fact is I am not like that. I don't do that. Otherwise, I would be no different than the previous leaders (who did that).

"I am entrusted to lead the country and I will do the very best," he said.

Anwar said there would be no compromise with any minister or deputy minister in the unity government who was found to be corrupt.

He said enforcement agencies, such as MACC, Inland Revenue Board, Bank Negara Malaysia and the police, had been instructed to carry out their responsibilities without fear or favour.

Anwar said his commitment to combating corruption had been well-received and no party in the unity government had objected to it. He advised the people to analyse the accusations against his government fairly, and to know the difference between slander and political attacks.

Anwar said among the slanders against the government were that no investments were coming in, the status of Islam was threatened, the recent maritime border agreement between Malaysia and Indonesia was unfavourable, and claims of rifts in the government.

"There are many slanders being spewed. The people can listen to them but they must analyse them fairly.

"Yes, there may be weaknesses which I may not be aware of. They can tell me my weaknesses but they should not resort to slander.

"Give us a chance to lead this country. It (our country) is almost rotten and we are here to put it back on track.

"I have been here for only seven months and I am doing everything possible to restore the economy and fight corruption," he said.