

# Anwar: Look at the facts first

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has slammed critics who claim the recent charges levelled against opposition politicians are evidence of political persecution.

The prime minister said they should examine the facts first before crying persecution.

“(The charges involving) the Jana Wibawa case are based on documents obtained by the Finance Ministry.

“If all cases involving politicians are being investigated or brought to court are said to be politically motivated, then the authorities can no longer investigate (political leaders suspected of being involved in corruption).

“If it involves big (names), will they be off the hook?” he said after the launch of the Kuala Lumpur Park Festival here yesterday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, reiterated that he did not interfere with investigations involving Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president and former prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who was summoned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Over al-



*Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim*

leged misappropriation of public funds.

Anwar, however, said he had issued a directive to the relevant agencies, including MACC and the Attorney-General's Chambers (A-GC), to take action against those linked to abuse of power and leakages in government funds.

In Muhyiddin's case, Anwar

said, there had yet to be any decision to be disclosed to the public.

“No decision as of yet. (Muhyiddin) was only summoned. That was why I said, whether there is a case, that is MACC's job.

“I don't know the final (decision).”

He called on those who wished for a corruption-free country to look at the investigations case-by-case to determine whether they were political persecution or were based on facts.

“I've previously mentioned Jana Wibawa and the flood mitigation project that were based on documents from the Finance Ministry, not MACC or A-GC.”

The claims of political persecution came following charges levelled against several Bersatu politicians in connection with alleged graft over the Jana Wibawa programme initiated by the Perikatan Nasional-led government under Muhyiddin's administration.

It also followed rumours that Muhyiddin would be detained yesterday by the MACC and charged today.