

ROLE IN 1MDB SCANDAL

GOLDMAN SACHS SHOULD BE DOING MORE, SAYS ANWAR

PM: It hasn't been forthcoming in efforts to negotiate a deal, should not regard lawsuit threat as a bluff

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Goldman Sachs Group Inc should do more to negotiate a deal with the government over its role in the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) multi-billion dollar scandal.

Speaking in an interview with Bloomberg News, Anwar said the investment bank hasn't been forthcoming in efforts to negotiate a deal.

"From my assessment and looking at it objectively, they (Goldman Sachs) should and must do more.

"It is quite clear that their (efforts) have not been forthcoming, although there have been overtures lately, to again, seek what they call an amicable resolution. But... they must be fair and just."

Anwar, however, said that there were misunderstandings suggesting that the investment bank did not collaborate at all, which was not true.

He said the investment bank was in talks with Malaysia to resolve one of the most scandalous episodes in the bank's history.

"A settlement is possible, because we are not unreasonable. We ask what is reasonable, and I even refused to state the quantum because we should allow for some flexibility to discuss.

"I don't think it's fair to suggest that the entire deal has to be relooked into, but there are specific areas where there is a flaw. Maybe we should just focus on that."

Anwar said while both sides would try to reach an amicable resolution, he cautioned Goldman not to consider the lawsuit threat as a bluff.

He said Malaysia had nothing to lose other than legal costs,

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime Minister

which the government could manage.

Previously, in an exclusive interview with CNBC, Anwar said Malaysia was looking at several alternatives, including another lawsuit against Goldman Sachs.

He added that there were two main points that the Malaysian government was unhappy about — the quantum and the interpretation of some of the clauses.

Anwar said he could get personally involved, but didn't see the need for it.

Answering a question on the status of the negotiations to bring ex-Goldman Sachs banker Roger Ng back to Malaysia, he said: "The process is ongoing and I'm optimistic of the outcome. But more importantly, it is about the issue of Goldman Sachs."

Asked if bringing back Ng would help with the investigations, Anwar replied: "He was instrumental, he would know a lot and would be of immense assistance in our investigations."

On March 9, Ng was sentenced to 10 years' jail after he was convicted of helping loot billions of dollars from Malaysia's 1MDB sovereign wealth fund.