

PM dismayed by reports of Customs corruption

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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed dismay over the case in which 34 Customs Department personnel have been arrested by the MACC over their alleged involvement in a smuggling syndicate.

He said the alleged corruption at that scale, even when it involved a small section of the department, could result in a loss of about RM2 billion to the country in two years.

Anwar added that he was briefed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) that no senior civil servants or leaders were suspected to be involved in corruption or abuse of power so far.

“Based on information by the MACC, the leadership and senior leadership of civil servants are still spared from the problem of corruption and misuse of power.

“But there are still some other issues which, for me, is very saddening, including news of the Customs Department personnel being involved in corruption,” he said at the Prime Minister’s monthly assembly here yesterday.

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
prime minister

Last week, the MACC detained 34 Customs officers suspected of being involved in the smuggling of various contraband.

MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said the smuggling of chewing tobacco, cigarettes, alcohol, health products and vehicle spare parts was allegedly committed through

the Import/Export Branch at Kuala Lumpur International Airport Cargo, Sepang.

Azam said the officers involved allegedly received bribes in exchange for allowing cargo to pass through without checks or declarations.