

Enforcement agencies being closely monitored: Anwar

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PUTRAJAYA: The government is closely monitoring enforcement agencies to prevent fraud in its fight against corruption, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He expressed hope that monitoring would help prevent fraudulent activities such as bribery among civil servants tasked with safeguarding national security and interest.

"This is a reminder to the Customs, Inland Revenue Board and Immigration Department.

"We are monitoring closely, and I hope that we can avoid these reports of fraud," said Anwar, who is also finance minister, at the ministry's assembly here yesterday.

He said fraudulent activities did not involve all enforcement personnel but only a few, with some forced to accept (bribes) because of the culture in their agencies.

► 'Move aimed at preventing fraudulent activities such as corruption among civil servants tasked with safeguarding national security and interests'

Anwar said the reported recent corruption case involving Customs Department officers should not give a bad image of civil servants because it only involved a small number of individuals.

"I congratulate the Customs director-general (Datuk Anis Rizana Mohd Zainudin) for not looking at it negatively, continuing to take action, transferring and taking disciplinary action (against personnel involved).

"Don't let these few people tarnish the image of the

public service."

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki was reported to have said that a total of 34 law enforcement personnel and 27 individuals and company owners had been arrested through *Ops Samba 2.0* for protecting and facilitating the activities of smuggling syndicates, resulting in losses of more than RM2 billion for the country.

On Monday, His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, King of Malaysia

decreed that the MACC tackle corruption, as the King marked the end of his "honeymoon" phase.

In a post on his Facebook page, Sultan Ibrahim made the announcement, after granting an audience to Azam Baki at Istana Negara.

"As I have emphasised previously, my honeymoon is over, now go catch the bees," Sultan Ibrahim stated in the post.

During the meeting with Azam, the King mentioned that battling the threat of corruption, the nation's enemy, is his main focus during his reign, *Bernama* reported.

Sultan Ibrahim also handed a container of honey to Azam as a symbolic gesture marking the end of his "honeymoon" phase.

The 30-minute meeting between His Majesty and Azam touched on developments involving the anti-graft commission.