

# 'RICH LEADERS SHOULDN'T AVOID PROBES'

They must face investigations into the source of their wealth, says Anwar

IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR  
AND DANIEL AHMAD  
SEPANG  
news@nst.com.my

**L**EADERS who shy away from investigations into the source of their wealth are undeserving of their titles, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

The prime minister said leaders

should face any investigations, no matter the risk.

"If I, as the finance minister, have warehouses of money, up to billions of ringgit all over the world, in banks in Africa, and no one dared to question me, just mere whispers, (I) do not deserve to be a leader in this country.

"If you want to be a leader, (you) have to face the music, no matter

the risk, because the money that was taken was for our children's schools and extra allowances for police and firefighters."

He said this at the National Good Governance Symposium here.

Anwar said he would not tolerate corruption in his cabinet, adding that he had informed Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Zuki Ali about it.

Anwar said corruption was not about a person amassing wealth,

but about the theft of public funds.

He lauded the MACC, police, the Attorney-General's Chambers and the National Audit Department for being ready to embrace change and eliminate corruption.

He cited a drug bust in Sabah, where police had detained a syndicate leader, and recent investigations by MACC into prominent personalities.

"When it comes to increasing the wages of civil servants by RM40 to RM60, it needs to be scrutinised.

"But when someone sweeps away billions of ringgit, no one questions it.

"There are also those who defended them, saying it's an old case and the perpetrator is already elderly, and enough with exacting revenge.

"If we don't start (investigating), we can't save this country," he said.

Anwar launched the National Good Governance Strengthening Movement at the symposium.

It seeks promote good governance and eliminate corruption, and is chaired by Zuki.