

# Anwar: I won't tolerate those complicit in abuse of funds

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he will not tolerate errant quarters, including academicians who are complicit in “the system in the past” responsible for the abuse and leakages of public funds.

The prime minister said corruption and poor governance were the reasons why the federal administration under his leadership had to spent hundreds of millions of ringgit to repair and upgrade toilets at some 8,000 schools last year.

“Billions have been siphoned

off and nobody dares to touch the big crooks because they are invisible in the system.

“I will not tolerate this. All political leaders, academicians and super elites must accept the collective responsibility that we failed in our task to prevent such gross diversion of public funds to enrich a few crooks in this country.

“The rot must stop here. This I want to remind you... professors and scholars complicit in the system in the past,” said Anwar at the launch of the Global

Intellectual Discourse, themed “The Next 100 Years: Vision 2100 for Malaysia”, here yesterday.

Anwar also chided critics who had questioned him for repeating his efforts to create good governance in the system.

“I (am) aware of critics who said ‘Anwar has no other things to talk about (except for the need to have good governance and eradicate corruption).

“And I am aware of those who hate it when I talk about good governance and corruption.

“To them, let me say this — it’s because of corruption and poor governance that we need to repair toilets at some 8,000 schools... because of corruption and poor governance that billions of ringgit in the public funds were transferred to a certain (political) figure.”

Anwar later called on the people to support his effort to ensure good governance in the administration of the country.

“I hope all of you will fully back me in the issue of good governance.

“We must all shoulder this responsibility. We need good governance to introduce better changes to the country.”

On the discourse, Anwar hoped that it would help generate new ideas and healthy environment for the country to move forward.

“Do not use (any) discussion to incite hatred and religious bigotry.

“I think the country requires a new healthy culture for it to develop) via the exchange of ideas throughout intellectual discourse,” he said.