

Work together to combat smuggling, PM tells security agencies

Anwar presenting the Tokoh Kastam award to former director-general Datuk Seri Subromaniam Tholasy at the event in Putrajaya yesterday. With them is Finance Minister 11 Senator Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan
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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has instructed all security agencies to work together to combat smuggling activities, which have resulted in Malaysia losing tens of billions of ringgit.

Describing the smuggling activities as becoming increasingly complicated, he said the Customs Department, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, police and other security agencies need to work together to eliminate the problem.

"It is important to work together because we are dealing with greedy people, sophisticated smugglers. Loss of revenue due to smuggling of fuel, cooking oil, drugs, cigarettes and alcohol has amounted to tens of billions of ringgit."

Anwar, who is also finance minister, was speaking at the 42nd World Customs Day celebration at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday.

He said the Customs Department and police have proven their competence in combating drug smuggling with the arrests of syndicate members and confiscation of goods, Bernama reported.

"We are witnessing an impressive

record, including by the Customs Department, in efforts to combat drug smuggling involving huge amounts. The police have also arrested a kingpin in Sabah."

According to a recent media report, the department thwarted an attempt to smuggle drugs weighing 6.13kg worth RM1.22 million, which was found hidden in a piece of luggage at Terminal 1 of the KL International Airport on Jan 9.

Expressing appreciation for the contributions of the security forces, Anwar said the government would give priority to implementing housing projects for all the security agencies through special tenders.

"Priority for housing has been given to the police, Armed Forces, Customs Department and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency this year. I ask that it be expedited and not follow the normal tender process, but through special tenders because when there is negotiation, usually 10% or 20% is leaked to others."

Anwar also reminded members of the security forces to carry out their duties sincerely and always emphasise good governance.