

# 'No use of govt machinery during polls campaigns'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said disciplinary action would be taken if there was evidence of ministers or government agencies using government machinery during election campaigns.

He said the cabinet had decided that following candidate nomination, civil servants or agencies were forbidden from using government machinery.

"After Nomination Day, it (the machinery) can't be used. Ministers or government agencies using government machinery in campaigns violates the cabinet's decision. If there is evidence, disciplinary action must be taken.

"I can assure you that (action will be taken), because it relates to the principle we uphold (of combating) a culture of corruption that we do not want to continue," he said during the prime minister's question time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

However, he said, if projects were announced before Nomination Day, the issue should not be raised.

Anwar was responding to a sup-

plementary question from Datuk Awang Hashim (PN-Pendang) who asked whether the government was willing to stop practices such as announcing new projects in areas involved in elections.

Previously, the Housing and Local Government Ministry announced a RM5.21 million allocation for Hulu Selangor projects in the area, close to the Kuala Kubu Bharu by-election.

The announcement received criticism from several quarters, including electoral watchdog Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections and Muar member of parliament Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman.

The ministry also made an announcement close to the Sungai Bakap by-election, allocating RM18 million for a slew of projects and non-Muslim houses of worship in Seberang Prai.

On June 15, Anwar reminded ministers not to announce projects and allocations during the Sungai Bakap by-election campaign, which began on June 22.