

Action against ministers using govt machinery during polls campaign

KUALA LUMPUR: Disciplinary action will be taken if there is evidence of ministers or agencies using government machinery during election campaigns, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He gave this assurance following a Cabinet decision that mandates all ministers, civil servants and agencies to refrain from utilising government machinery immediately after the nomination day for elections.

"This is because it relates to the principle we uphold in combating corruption and to prevent the continuation of any corrupt practices. However, if a project began before nomination day, I do not believe it warrants further scrutiny.

"If there is a violation on this, the Cabinet should take disciplinary action for breaching its

own decision," he said during the Minister's Question Time session in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar was responding to a supplementary question from Datuk Awang Hashim (PN-Pendang), who asked whether the government is prepared to stop practices such as announcing new projects in areas involved in elections.

In reply to Awang's original question about the government's focus on corruption prevention, improving governance and administrative integrity in public services and government-linked companies in line with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2024 to 2028, Anwar said the framework of the strategy would be presented at the parliamentary

sitting today.

"NACS 2024 to 2028 builds on past efforts but is enhanced with specific policies and implementation strategies.

"For instance, one critical area identified is enforcement, which is why NACS emphasises five core strategies and several sub-strategies, including enforcement measures, education, public accountability, citizen participation and incentives to combat corruption," he said.

Addressing Awang's query about institutional reforms for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to operate transparently and independently, Anwar said the agency would maintain its role as a watchdog for combating corruption and misconduct in the country.

He added that the Special Committee on

Corruption, comprising MPs, would continue to play a crucial oversight role.

Anwar reiterated that he does not interfere or direct the MACC in prosecuting any party involved in corruption cases, whether from the government or the Opposition.

He added that corruption cases involving politicians are relatively few compared with those involving companies and civil servants.

"Whether MACC chooses to disclose or investigate, that is within their discretion. However, I will continue to urge them to take decisive action so that within a year or two, we can send a clear message to clean up (combat corruption).

"Otherwise, the situation will worsen."
- Bernama