



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday, PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI

## DECISION NEXT WEEK

# PM TELLS GOVT DEPT HEADS TO REPORT GRAFT

Those who don't won't be promoted, says Anwar

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**G**overnment department heads who fail to report corruption will not be promoted, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The prime minister yesterday said he would make the suggestion to the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Zuki Mohd Ali in the next few days.

The war against corruption, Anwar said, was a collective effort and not the sole responsibility of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

This view was shared by the Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs), which has called on department heads to play their role in this effort.

"If there is wrongdoing, why does the department head not report it? How can unit heads not know about it?"

"I think these (corrupt) practices have been going on for years. It's impossible that you don't know about it."

"We establish a rule so that department or unit heads, who know that their system is corrupt and leave it unreported, will not

get promoted," said Anwar in his speech at the Prime Minister's Department monthly gathering here.

Present were Deputy Prime Ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Zuki, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said how the measure would be implemented would be decided by Zuki and the Public Services Department (PSD) director-general.

He added that he wanted it to be decided next week that department and unit heads had to report wrongdoing. He said he did not mind repeating the message on corruption because wrongdoing still continued.

"I am not tired of repeating this. There have been improvements, and I applaud the MACC, the Inland Revenue Board and other authorities that do not compromise on corruption."

"We would get angry if our children or grandchildren steal their friend's pencil, but we allow it if we steal millions and billions."

"I (continue) to stress on this because (corruption) is still happening on some levels."

He reminded civil servants to play their part in combatting wrongdoing and corruption.

"I hope you all understand. Otherwise, you can choose not to

be department heads because of this extra responsibility.

"Let the PSD director-general know that you only want to be an officer, not a head of a department or a unit."

"You can kick up a storm, (but) work must be done. I have given warnings for a long time, so the responsibility is on everyone from top to bottom."

Cuepacs president Datuk Dr Adnan Mat said the congress supported Anwar's suggestion not to promote department or unit heads who failed to report corruption.

The recommendation by Anwar, he said, was to place shared responsibility on all levels to ensure good governance and integrity.

"Cuepacs hopes all civil servants, regardless of position, will see this move as a positive one, especially in ensuring that the civil service is always at its best."

"Misconduct in the civil service, including concealing wrongdoing, is something that we are strongly against."

"It is inappropriate for people in power to hide violations just to protect their good name or that of certain individuals," he said in a statement.

All civil servants, he said, should combat wrongdoing, including by reporting the matter.

"The reforms that the prime minister wants to implement do not mean that there is high misconduct in the civil service, but it is an effort to transform the civil service for the better."