

'MINISTERS NOT IMMUNE FROM MACC PROBE'

They would be asked to step down, says prime minister

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Ministers and deputy ministers in the unity government will be scrutinised and investigated by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) if suspected of being involved in any form of corruption and abuse of power.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim also pledged that the ministers and deputy ministers investigated by the MACC would be asked to step down in a "compulsory" manner.

Anwar, who has been vocal about efforts to eradicate any form of corruption in the country, said the MACC was monitoring all the tenders approved by every ministry and agencies in the federal administration.

"I have issued a clear reminder on this. I have also said there is no need to ask for my permission if the commission wanted to initiate action.

"It is compulsory (for ministers and deputy ministers suspected to be involved in corruption and power abuse) to be dropped (from the unity government).

"This is the way in order for us to save the country (from continuing to be gripped by corruption)," said Anwar in his speech at the National Anti-Corruption Summit 2024 here yesterday.

Themed "Embedding Integri-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Human Resources Minister Steven Sim (left), MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki (second from right) and HRD Corp CEO Datuk Shahul Dawood (right) at the summit in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

ty and Good Governance in Human Capital Development", some 1,300 people attended the summit, which was organised by the Human Resources Development Corporation with the MACC.

Present were Human Resources Minister Steven Sim, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming. Also in attendance was MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki.

Anwar, in his speech, also challenged critics of his administration to present evidence of suspected involvement in corruption and abuse of powers involving ministers and deputy ministers in the federal administration under his leadership.

"Since we came into power, the federal administration has been

(verbally) attacked from every corner.

"I have said this both in and outside of the Parliament... provide me with one proof of ministers (involvement in corruption) and I will ask Tan Sri Azam to investigate. If there is any, I want them to be investigated and arrested," he said.

Anwar also highlighted the need for more initiatives to educate the people on the detrimental impact of corruption and abuse of power towards the development of the country and the welfare of the people.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, described the general understanding on the impact of corruption was still extremely "mendatar" (low) and "dangkal" (superficial).

"There is seem to be a 'disconnect' on this. More efforts are needed to show how billions of ringgit embezzled by irresponsible quarters will affect the rights of the people."