

Anwar: I accepted Najib's 1MDB apology in good faith

IPOH: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he accepted Datuk Seri Najib Razak's apology over the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) financial scandal in good faith.

"I am the prime minister, I am the father of the nation. When someone says something like this, what should I do? I accept it in good faith.

"If it is a court matter, then leave it to the court. If it concerns the Pardons Board, then it is up to the king.

"But as someone in a position of responsibility, I must respond appropriately.

"When people make statements, we welcome those with good intentions. That is an example of good leadership," he said in his speech at the Perak PKR Convention here yesterday.

Present were Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad, Perak DAP chairman Nga Kor Ming, PKR vice-president Chang Lih Kang and Parti Amanah Negara vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Mujahid Yusof Rawa.

On Thursday, Najib issued an apology for the events that transpired during the 1MDB financial scandal. But the former prime minister maintained his innocence, claiming he was deceived by fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho and his associates.

Anwar has drawn flak for accepting Najib's apology. Detractors say he had no authority to accept the apology.

Anwar said those who criticised him for accepting Najib's apology



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak arriving for proceedings at the Kuala Lumpur Court Complex recently. NSTP PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

were "beba" (slow-witted).

"This is all nonsense. These people don't know where they stand and are just looking for reasons to be angry. There are leaders who embezzle billions of ringgit, but when they want to attack, they target only one person.

"I know my position on 1MDB. It's unfair to single out one individual. Those who attack may have embezzled even more."

He said some people accused him of being selective when he told the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to probe graft cases as a whole.

"They said I was being selective. No, what I said was 'save this country'.

"I gave orders to the Customs Department, the Inland Revenue Board, the police, MACC and all enforcement agencies. The prime minister's instruction is comprehensive.

"This is my leadership. The cabinet is unanimous that firm action must be taken against anyone who embezzles national funds."

On another matter, he said Malaysia's application to become a BRICS partner country received strong support from all members, including Russia, China and India, at a meeting of the bloc's eight founding members.

He said this was shared by Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali during their meeting

in Putrajaya on Saturday.

"He (Abiy) said that during a meeting of the eight founding members chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin, which was also attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first country proposed was Malaysia.

"Putin made the suggestion and there was strong and solid support from China, India, Brazil, Ethiopia and South Africa.

"They accepted Malaysia as a new member of BRICS. The decision on other countries was postponed," he said at a gathering with the Padang Rengas community yesterday.