

'SAFEGUARD THE NATION'

PM: DON'T CONDONE GRAFT BY ANYONE

Action must apply to all govt agencies, including staff in Prime Minister's Office, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim called on government leaders and enforcement

agencies to ensure no officer involved in misconduct or corruption receives protection.

He said legal action must apply to everyone, including staff at the Prime Minister's Office.

"If it is a minor misstep, it can be dealt with through disciplinary measures.

"But for serious offences, enforcement bodies must be ready to take action against their own people. That is the only way to safeguard the nation.

"And if this misconduct occurs in my own office, I will inform MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki.

"I will not shield anyone. If my office is not spared, the same applies to the chief secretary to the government, the Attorney-General's Chambers or even the MACC office."

He said this at the International Anti-Corruption Day (Hara) celebration yesterday.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the International Anti-Corruption Day (Hara) celebration in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

He said the country's governance would remain secure only if leaders and enforcement authorities were prepared to act against wrongdoing in their own ranks.

He also expressed his frustration with the tendency to glorify givers of bribes. "We tend only to blame those who receive them. Yet the ones who give are sometimes even honoured.

"Oh, a fighter, they say. How strange a country would be if that is the case. It would damage our values and cultural system.

"What meaning is there in talking about morality then?"

Anwar said the government does not reject everything from the past.

"There are customs that do not necessarily need to be discarded.

"But the desire to bring about change must exist, especially in leaving behind a corrupt system and practices that sometimes glorify wrongdoers.

"Some say — 'People who take bribes are normal, Pak.' If they have power, hold a position, and do not take bribes, then they are considered foolish. This is a culture that has been corrupted."

This year Hara's theme is "Uniting With Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity".

Malaysia's theme — "Together with the Madani Public Service to Combat Corruption: Shaping the Integrity of the Future" — reflects the government's commitment to fighting crime in line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.