

NO COMPROMISE ON GRAFT

PM: MACC a key pillar in governance

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is one of the main pillars of the government to maintain integrity in the governance system, thus saving the country from corruption.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Madani government under his leadership would never compromise on the issue and that he had given full authority to the MACC to act without hindrance, fear or favour against any individual involved in the abuse of power.

“I have given a clear message that uncontrolled procurement should no longer be allowed and MACC should be given full freedom to search, dismantle and take action,” he said, adding that corruption was firmly rooted and had almost become a culture.

He said this at the MACC Ceremonial Dinner 2025 at the World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur here on Thursday.

Present were MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

Acknowledging that he had his own history with MACC, which was previously known as the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), Anwar said eradicating corruption

was not an easy task because the system and political leadership were at times not compatible.

As a part of the then government, he said, he had prioritised efforts to strengthen ACA through amendments, additional officers and financial support.

“I told the ACA that if we are serious about dealing with corruption, we must have the commitment to bring about changes. So, we (the then government) sent a team to Hong Kong because the country had a history of corruption.

“In the 1960s and 1970s, Hong Kong had the highest level of crime and corruption. So, there was a decision at that time to establish the Hong Kong Anti-Corruption Commission. The commission is empowered with strong legal provisions, complete with machinery and officers. With these three factors, their freedom in (tackling) corruption had changed in eight years and Hong Kong transformed into a clean country.”

Anwar gave the assurance that as long as he was able to carry out his duties as prime minister, he would not compromise in the fight against corruption and abuse of power.

In a Facebook post, Anwar said the proposed amendments to the

Peaceful Assembly Act highlighted the government’s commitment to democracy, freedom of speech and differing views.

He said the amendments, which will be tabled in the next Dewan Rakyat session, aimed to facilitate peaceful gatherings by removing the requirement for venue owners’ approval for public assemblies.

“Instead, organisers will only need to notify the police at least five days in advance before holding any assembly. These amendments will facilitate all types of assemblies, except those that pose a security threat,” he said.

As an interim measure, he said, the government had announced a moratorium on the enforcement of existing regulations, allowing peaceful assemblies to proceed without venue owners’ approval until the amendments take effect.

Anwar announced in Parliament on Thursday that the government would amend the Peaceful Assembly Act.

He also said investigations into those who attended recent rallies, including the Himpunan Rakyat Benci Rasuah, as well as the hunger strike and protests against the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act, would be halted. **Bernama**