



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visiting the refurbished Alamanda Shopping Centre at its launch in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa (second from left). NSTP PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

CLAIMS OF VENDETTAS

ANWAR DENIES WAR ON GRAFT IS PERSONAL

'Govt does not interfere in any investigation into corruption'

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has dismissed claims that the government's war on corruption is driven by personal vendettas.

"Some people say I am holding grudges and going out of my way to look for wrongdoings.

"That is not true. I have made it clear to the cabinet that we do not interfere in any investigation."

He said this at the launch of the refurbished Alamanda Shopping Centre here yesterday.

Anwar said the anti-corruption efforts aim to ensure good governance and that the authorities act independently.

He said the police, Customs Department, Inland Revenue Board and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission are free to take action to eradicate corruption.

"A country can prosper, but if its leaders are preoccupied with accumulating wealth for themselves, who will take care of the people?"

He also criticised those who opposed the authorities' actions, claiming they were driven by personal vendettas.

"This is why the country is in decline, so we must reflect on this."

This was not the first time he denied claims that action taken against some personalities were forms of personal vendetta.

Without mentioning who had made the claims, Anwar denied them in September last year.

He had said any party's "questionable behaviour" must be corrected so that it would not affect the people.

In December last year, he took the opposition to task for claiming that the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge issue was initiated to target certain people.

He, however, had refuted the claims, saying that the task force had been set up during his predecessor Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's tenure.

He added that opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin

and chief whip Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan were ministers at the time.

On another matter, Anwar reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing criticism on issues such as flood mitigation and infrastructure projects.

"During meetings and the recent cabinet retreats, we heard that some ministers have failed to explain government initiatives.

"Some say that while the programmes are beneficial, they are not communicated well to the public. Others suggest that additional measures should be taken.

"Fine, we will improve. We hear these concerns and we must take action. I have no issue with that."

Anwar, who is finance minister, said the government is not perfect.

However, he said, the government must accept criticism to improve.

"(It is) not just me as prime minister (who must accept criticism), but department heads and others must listen so that we can do better."

Present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa.