



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (second from left) at the launch of the Wakaf Mara Madani endowment fund at World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Present are Deputy Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Rubiah Wang (second from right) and Mara chairman Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki (left), NSTP PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

'COUNTRY WILL BE RUINED'

PM: GOVT POSTS NOT A TICKET TO WEALTH

Anwar also cautions against exploiting identity politics for personal gain

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim issued two strongly worded warnings against those who exploit identity politics and government positions to amass wealth.

In speeches in Kuala Lumpur and Perak, the prime minister did not mince his words, declaring that his administration would "fight and go to war" with those who did so at the expense of the people.

He said holding a government position is not a "ticket" to accumulate wealth, but a duty to serve the country and its people.

"Being prime minister or finance minister is not about getting rich. That cannot happen. If it does, this country will be ruined," he said in Bagan Serai on Friday, without naming any individuals.

Anwar, who has forgone his prime ministerial salary, said

ministers had the right to salaries.

"If you take your salary, that's fine - but don't steal and stash money elsewhere," he said at the Perak Madani breaking-of-fast programme at SK Dato' Alauddin.

Alluding to criticisms over the authorities' investigations, Anwar said some had described him as vengeful and holding a grudge against his opponents.

"What grudge? I am the prime minister - what is there to fight over? My responsibility is to safeguard the people's money and return it to them."

Previously, Anwar had said that he never instructed the authorities, including the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and Inland Revenue Board, to investigate anyone as claimed by certain quarters.

Anwar followed up his criticism of those who abused their positions to "steal" from the people, with another critique of the exploitation of identity politics.

At the launch of the Wakaf Mara Madani endowment fund here

yesterday, the prime minister slammed those who claimed to champion the rights of Malays and Bumiputeras, but were acting against their best interests for personal gain.

"Do not take advantage of Bumiputera opportunities only to betray the trust placed in you.

"How much Bumiputera wealth has been lost due to poor governance?" he asked.

He reiterated that the unity government has never wavered in defending Bumiputera rights, citing as an example the designation of 20ha of prime land in Bandar Malaysia as Malay reserve land.

"The redevelopment of Subang Airport also prioritises Bumiputera interests," he added.

At the same time, Anwar stressed that his administration's policies were "pro-rakyat".

"Our pro-rakyat policies do not sideline anyone and ensure that no one is left behind. It is a policy that rejects oppression and upholds justice for all."

"What grudge? I am the prime minister - what is there to fight over? My responsibility is to safeguard the people's money and return it to them."

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IBRAHIM