



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the PKR National Congress in Johor Bahru yesterday.
NSTP PIC BY NAJMI NOR'AZAM

FIRST TIME IN DECADES

PM LAUDS MACC FOR

REELING IN 'BIG FISH'

Anwar responds to criticism over extension of Azam Baki's contract

JOHOR BARU

P RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has commended the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for its bravery in going after the "big fish", from billionaires to the country's elite, for the first time in decades.

Anwar said this in response to criticism over the extension of Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki's contract.

"I am aware of the criticism surrounding the extension of Azam Baki's tenure, especially from opposition members and civil society groups.

"Looking at MACC's progress over the decades, this is the first time it has had the courage to go after the big bosses — those with billions in wealth, the elite, Tan Sri, Tun and other prominent figures."

He said this at the PKR National Congress on Friday night.

He said while replacing the chief commissioner was possible, he was not confident a successor would demonstrate the same resolve and boldness.

Anwar took aim at critics, ques-

tioning their silence when MACC acted against those with high-level connections.

"I don't hear these same voices supporting the commission when it takes action against billionaires, political figures or their families. Some even quietly support them," he said.

Anwar rejected accusations that recent enforcement efforts were politically motivated.

"Is it revenge to recover billions stolen from the country?"

"I've said before, despite the attacks on me and my family, I forgave them.

"But stealing from the nation is different. That money must be returned to the people."

In his closing remarks at the congress yesterday, Anwar said the price of RON95 petrol would not be raised for Malaysians.

He said that the proposal to increase the price of RON95 had been presented to the cabinet, but he did not agree with it.

"I am considering the issue of RON95 petrol subsidies. Some have proposed increasing the price.

"However, I disagree with a price hike. Instead, the price of RON95 can be gradually reduced in line with time and market conditions.

"But for the four million foreign nationals in this country, petrol prices must be increased.

"Foreign nationals are enjoying RM3 billion to RM4 billion in subsidies. Perhaps, in the future,

buying RON95 petrol will require customers to show their MyKad," he said.

Last year, when tabling the 2025 Budget, he had announced that targeted RON95 petrol subsidies may be carried out in mid-2025.

He had said the proposal could save up to RM8 billion, as 40 per cent of RON95 subsidies are enjoyed by foreigners and the ultra-wealthy.

He had said that 85 per cent of the population would not be affected by the subsidy rationalisation and that savings would be channelled to improvements in education, healthcare and public transportation.

He said yesterday the people should not be doubt the government's approach, which prioritises the interests of the majority.

"No country gives petrol subsidies to those who own Rolls-Royces, especially the top five per cent of the ultra-wealthy in this country.

"Yet, this five per cent insists that we protect their access to fuel subsidies."

He addressed calls to review the e-Invoice initiative, saying the government would study the matter.

"It is crucial to ensure the country doesn't lose revenue."

He added that the government will also address concerns about gas and liquefied natural gas subsidies to ensure small businesses are not burdened.