

AT ALL LEVELS

'GRAFT WAR MUST HEED DUE PROCESS'

Prosecution involves procedures and evidence, not arbitrary decisions, says PM

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WHILE stressing on the need for an all-out war against corruption, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has made it clear that he is not a dictator.

He said prosecuting any alleged corruption case could be carried out only based on evidence and according to procedures, and not on arbitrary instructions.

"I am not a dictator who orders immediate arrests. I do not want to be a prime minister who says 'Oh, we must arrest' or 'we must prosecute'.

"The fact is the fight against corruption must be conducted at all levels," he said during the launch of Sabah's Kaamatan Festival celebration at the Hongkod Koisaan Hall here.

Present was Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor.

Anwar said he was responsible for maintaining peace and upholding the rule of law, but that

did not mean he would resort to prosecution without investigations and evidence.

He acknowledged public concern about a video circulating on social media linking a federal minister and a state assemblyman to a mining prospect scandal.

"I want to be transparent. What is the point of only saying things people want* to hear? When the issue escalated, I raised the matter with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

"Some people question why I haven't intervened, suggesting I am attempting to cover up allegations of corruption. But we are not a country governed by perception.

"Matters like these cannot be handled based on rumours, accusations or slander," he said, adding that a comprehensive investigation was underway.

Anwar also urged state and community leaders to work with the federal government to safeguard national sovereignty, improve socio-economic development and protect the rights and welfare of the people.