

# PM: No interference in Auditor-General's report

> Public trust in govt depends on effectiveness or institutions, core values of integrity, transparency and accountability'

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has stressed that he does not interfere in the preparation of the Auditor-General's report, reaffirming his administration's commitment to transparency and good governance.

"When I receive audit briefings, it's not to interfere or alter the findings, but to understand them before they are presented to the Cabinet and Parliament for open, public debate. That is good governance. That is transparency."

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the inaugural Asean Auditors Conference 2025 yesterday, Anwar said public trust in the government depends not only on the effectiveness of institutions but also on the core values they uphold, particularly integrity, transparency and accountability.

"A crucial part of our cohesiveness lies in remaining true to our ideals - a community rooted in responsible and good governance. And at the heart of good governance is accountability."

He reiterated his administration's ongoing institutional reforms, notably efforts to

strengthen independent oversight bodies and audit institutions in both Malaysia and across Asean.

Anwar also acknowledged the political risks involved in acting on audit findings, particularly when entrenched interests are challenged.

"In government, I've learnt that taking corrective action, even when backed by audit reports, can be very unpopular.

"You face backlash from vested interests. For example, enforcing a transparent tender process may upset those used to the old ways. But if we don't act, we risk letting corruption flourish."

Citing the 1Malaysia Development Berhad scandal as an example, Anwar warned of the consequences when oversight mechanisms are weak and audit processes compromised.

"We've seen in the past, even in our own country, how oversight failures and complicity among auditors can contribute to scandals that rob the nation.

"Let's be honest. In the past, even large audit firms have not been immune to complicity."

Anwar said to address this, there is a need to empower auditors and regulators to operate independently and without external pressure.

"Our goal is to uphold the highest standards

of transparency and accountability and to strengthen anti-corruption frameworks, especially by ensuring the independence of auditors and regulators."

He also urged Asean countries to go beyond economic progress and embrace principled governance as a defining feature of the region's global standing.

"We want Asean to stand as a region of cohesion, trust and peace, not just because we're home to around 650 million people or one of the fastest-growing economies, but because we live by our values."

Anwar warned against prioritising technological and financial development at the expense of social equity, calling for a more inclusive approach to growth.

"Why focus on audit, governance and AI if we don't also resolve abject poverty or address inequality? Our ultimate goal must be to protect human dignity.

"Governance rooted in values and dignity is the only foundation for sustainable development. History is full of nations that rose to greatness and then declined due to greed and corruption."

Present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Auditor-General Datuk Seri Wan Suraya Wan Mohd Radzi.

Held under the theme "Inclusive and Sustainable Auditing for a Progressive Asean," the two-day conference drew more than 2,000 participants.