

'NO PAST DEEDS CAN SHIELD THE CORRUPT',

Anwar: Some from opposition object to MACC's actions instead of supporting them

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reaffirmed his full backing for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), urging it to persist in pursuing corrupt individuals regardless of their past contributions or influence.

Speaking at MACC's 58th anniversary celebration and the launch of the Keep Malaysia Clean campaign, he acknowledged the risks the commission faced in taking on high-profile cases involving hundreds of millions or even billions of ringgit.

He expressed dismay that some quarters, including opposition members, had questioned or criticised the MACC's actions.

"I am baffled. When action is taken, some respond by saying, 'Don't you know what this person has done for the country? Don't you know he is unwell?' All sorts of excuses," he said.

"Instead of encouraging and supporting the MACC, even in Parliament, some stand up to oppose such moves — and they come from the opposition."

Anwar said anti-graft enforcement must be supported, not obstructed.

"They could have said, 'Yes, I support the arrest. But what about others — do you have evidence, and will you take action?' That would be fair. But to object simply because someone has done good in the past... everyone contributes in some way, even cleaners. Even the corrupt may have done some good," he said.

Drawing an analogy, he added: "Even Pharaoh fed thousands and paid wages to his workers. But what kind of contribution was that? A Pharaoh's contribution.

"I am not comparing anyone to Pharaoh, but the point is clear: action must be taken whenever it is warranted."

Anwar praised MACC's courage



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim presenting the MACC Chief Commissioner's Special Medal to Tan Sri Azam Baki during the commission's 58th anniversary celebration and Keep Malaysia Clean programme launch in Putrajaya. Also seen are Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof (second from left), Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir (left), Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar (second from right) and Attorney-General Tan Sri Dusuki Mokhtar. NSTP PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

in pursuing powerful figures regardless of rank or influence, calling it a historic milestone in Malaysia's anti-graft efforts.

"Never before in history has the MACC shown such bravery in acting against influential figures. Comprehensive, thorough, and courageous action of this nature is unprecedented, and we are proud of it," he said.

At the same event, MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki announced that the government had, in principle, agreed to introduce a legal framework for the Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA).

The decision was made by the Special Cabinet Committee on National Governance, chaired by Anwar, with the framework expected to be tabled in Parliament during its first sitting next year.

Azam said the DPA — already practised in countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom — would allow for expedited

asset recovery, minimise losses of public funds arising from abuse of power, and strengthen the prosecution of corporate corruption cases.

"These efforts would not be possible without clear political will and the full support of the government," he said.

He likened corruption to a chronic disease which, if left untreated, could destroy a nation, noting that Malaysia had lost billions over the past two decades.

However, Azam said with firm political resolve and initiatives under the Malaysia Madani agenda, the country was now on the right track.

Highlighting recent achievements, he said MACC had successfully recovered US\$330 million (RM1.4 billion) in the JPMorgan Chase & Co. case through cooperation with the Malaysia Asset Recovery Task Force, the US Department of Justice, the FBI, and Switzerland's Office of the Attor-

ney General.

He also pointed to the commission's evolution, from the National Bureau of Investigations to the Anti-Corruption Agency and now to MACC, as proof of Malaysia's continuous efforts to strengthen integrity and governance.

"Despite challenges, MACC has become a key institution in defending national integrity and is now regarded as a leading anti-corruption agency in Asean," he said.

On the Keep Malaysia Clean campaign, Azam described it as a strategic national movement to instil a civic-minded, corruption-free culture from preschool to the workforce.

"A corruption-free culture is key to building a truly clean Malaysia. This movement reflects our shared commitment to cleanse the administration, society, and environment of corrupt practices while promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability at all levels."