

PM: ACT WITHOUT FEAR AGAINST GRAFT

Anwar vows to protect those who take firm action against the corrupt

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reminded civil servants and enforcement officers to uphold integrity and efficiency in their duties, stressing that good governance and firm enforcement are essential to safeguarding national interests and ensuring public trust.

Speaking at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly assembly here, he said enforcement agencies such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, police and other authorities must act decisively against corruption, abuse of power and smuggling, even when it involved influential figures.

"If there is evidence and no element of persecution, proceed immediately," he said.

"I will stake everything to defend you in taking firm action to save this nation."

He also assured enforcement officers that they need not fear



Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the Prime Minister Department's monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday, BERNAMA PIC

taking action against wrongdoers, including high-ranking individuals, as long as they acted fairly and within the law.

Anwar said in the past, syndicates at ports and borders were able to operate freely as they were shielded by powerful individuals — a practice the government would no longer tolerate.

"We must show the people that the law applies equally to everyone, from the lowest officer to the highest leader. That is the foundation of a just and moral government."

Anwar also called on civil servants to strengthen the efficiency and integrity of the public service before raising concerns about tax policies.

"Before we think about taxes that may burden the people, we must first correct the weaknesses in our administration. Is the sys-

tem efficient? Can we curb leakages, corruption and smuggling?"

He added that over the past two years, enforcement and administrative reforms had enabled the government to save RM15.5 billion through tighter control of leakages, by curbing smuggling, and combating corruption.

These savings, he said, had been redirected towards public welfare initiatives, including civil service salary adjustments, the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah cash aid and Sumbangan Asas Rahmah programme.

Anwar also acknowledged resistance from those who had benefited from entrenched systems of abuse, including large-scale smugglers, subsidy manipulators, and cartels.

However, he said, this would not deter his administration from pursuing reform.