



Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir (left) standing beside Anwar as they attended the 'In Conversation with Prime Minister' programme in conjunction with the summit at WTC - *ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN*

Anwar vows protection for officials who thwart graft

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has pledged full protection for officials who act firmly against corruption and safeguard national revenue, reaffirming his administration's resolve to strengthen governance and integrity.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said decisive and immediate action is crucial to free Malaysia from corrupt practices that undermine the economy and people's wellbeing.

"I will defend those who carry out their duties to save the nation. We appreciate their efforts, but enforcement alone is not enough," he said at the Prime Minister's Monthly Assembly with staff of the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

He urged civil servants not to rely solely on the

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and enforcement agencies, but to collectively uphold transparent and accountable governance.

Anwar commended agencies including the MACC, Inland Revenue Board and police for their intensified enforcement over the past two years which resulted in the government saving billions in funds.

He said this was proof of the government's firm stance against graft.

"In 2023, we strengthened enforcement but saw limited progress. By 2024, it became clear, with the RM15.5 billion saved in two years," he said.

He acknowledged that fighting corruption invites resistance, adding that the government remains steadfast to reform outdated systems

that allowed revenue losses.

"Some who have lived in luxury through subsidies may disagree, but reforms are necessary.

"If we could save RM100 billion in 10 years, we could build universities, rural clinics, schools and facilities for persons with disabilities."

Anwar said eliminating corruption not only prevents losses, but also enhances Malaysia's international standing as a respected nation.

Separately, he reminded civil servants to serve with honesty and ensure their income is earned through *halal* and ethical means.

"We must nurture determination that stems from confidence in our conscience.

"If we desire *halal* income, we must serve with sincerity." - Bernama