

# 'MACC MUST ACT INDEPENDENTLY'

**A prime minister cannot be both the investigator and punisher, says Anwar**

OLIVIA MIWIL AND  
IZWAN ABDULLAH  
KOTA KINABALU  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE country has its own way to tackle corruption, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) must be allowed to act independently, regardless of who was implicated.

"If a prime minister has to become the investigator and the punisher, that is not a prime minister — that is a dictator.

"We need to follow the rules. For example, when news surfaced about a Sabah leader recently, the MACC immediately said, 'Yes, we will investigate.' That is the way.

"If there is evidence of corruption, MACC must act — whether you are a Tun, a Tan Sri, a minister in Peninsular Malaysia or Sabah, or even a state assembly-

man. If there is a case, MACC steps in. If guilty, imprisonment follows.

"But some say there are people who are not investigated. That is not my job. I am not the investigator, I am not the judge. We must follow the rules," he said during the Himpunan Tamu Rapat Umum held in conjunction with PKR's 27th Reformasi anniversary at Dewan Pisompuruan, Kampung Kobuni, here yesterday.

Present were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, PKR secretary-general Datuk Fuziah Salleh, PKR information chief Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, Sabah PKR chief Datuk Mustapha Sakmud and state PKR election director Datuk Peto Galim.

Anwar said MACC's firm actions had recovered billions of ringgit in stolen public funds.

"In the past, I was arrested, beaten and jailed. I can forgive that. I was humiliated, stripped down. Fine, I forgive.

"But money stolen from the

people, I cannot forgive. That must be seized and returned. It is not my money, it belongs to the people and to the nation," he said.

Anwar said the 2026 Budget, to be tabled on Oct 10, would include "something good" for Sabah.

"The national budget will be for Malaysia, but for Sabah there will be a special announcement.

"We have power now, and the real question is how we use it — not to enrich families or cronies, but to serve the people.

"My dream is that people, whether from urban or rural areas, feel they have opportunities and hope in Malaysia," he said.

The prime minister said Sabah had received the largest federal allocation in the nation's history under his administration.

He also confirmed that Sabah and Sarawak's request for additional parliamentary seats — an issue raised since 1963 — had finally been approved.

"Who promised to add seats for Sabah and Sarawak, and who actually approved it? It is the current prime minister who approved the increase," he said.

Anwar added that his admin-



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the Himpunan Tamu Rapat Umum held in conjunction with PKR's 27th Reformasi anniversary at Dewan Pisompuruan, Kampung Kobuni in Kota Kinabalu yesterday, BERNAMA PIC*

istration remained focused on easing the people's burden through initiatives such as Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR) and Sumbangan Asas Rahmah, as well as salary increments for civil servants.

"STR alone amounts to RM15 billion a year. For civil servants, teachers and others, we allocated an additional RM10 billion this year, and RM18 billion next year," he said.

On the state election, Anwar, who is Pakatan Harapan (PH) chairman, said the coalition would contest a limited number of seats in Sabah but insisted these would be decisive.

"Those few seats will be the determining factor," he said, adding that PH was eyeing constituencies such as Inanam, while co-operating with partners in other areas.

He said despite a lack of consensus between Barisan Nasional and Gabungan Rakyat Sabah, PH would work with both to ensure a strong unity government.

Anwar also expressed gratitude for the people's enduring support throughout his decades-long struggle.

"Even during my time in and out of prison, I was always met with love and affection. I will never forget that," he said.