

'Pick leaders who serve you, not those who serve themselves'

SANDAKAN: Malaysians must reject leaders who spread hatred and instead choose those who are trustworthy and uphold good governance, says the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the people must choose leaders who genuinely safeguard their interests, not those who abuse power for personal gain.

"We have heard much about

leaders stealing here and there. This culture must stop; firm action is necessary.

"Some of them were once wealthy leaders who monopolised major projects, yet they still find fault with others.

"This cannot go on. There must be a genuine commitment to putting things right," he said at the 20th anniversary celebration of

the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) here yesterday, Bernama reported.

Anwar said when it comes to defence and security the government cannot compromise on leakages, wastage or corruption, as this would weaken the nation even with billions of ringgit allocated for defence spending.

"Leakages, wastage and corrup-

tion must be stopped. Otherwise, no matter how strong a nation may be, it will fall.

"If those entrusted with responsibility abuse it, the country will be ruined," he said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister commended MMEA for its improved performance.

He said the country's vast maritime areas require security and

defence assets that are always ready and fully equipped.

"Malaysia is a peaceful country, but we face challenges such as human trafficking, arms and drug smuggling as well as intrusions. All this demands a disciplined and well-equipped force.

"The peace we enjoy today is the result of the contributions and sacrifices of our security forces."