



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking to the media after Friday prayers at Masjid Usamah Bin Zaid in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. NSTP PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDDIN

RESTORING INTEGRITY

MILITARY, POLICE PROCUREMENT FROZEN

Processes will be assessed for structural gaps, systemic weaknesses, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has ordered an immediate freeze on all military and police procurement decisions to restore integrity and ensure full compliance with procedures.

The move follows recent corruption allegations involving the armed forces.

"We must re-examine, restructure and, for the time being, freeze all military or police procurement decisions, or any others, until we ensure that the process is fully complied with," he said after Friday prayers at Masjid Usamah Bin Zaid in Wangsa Maju here yesterday.

Anwar said the government was monitoring the situation and would assess whether there were structural gaps or systemic weaknesses in procurement processes.

He thanked Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin for issuing a clear statement on the matter in his ministry's New Year address, signalling the government's resolve to address weaknesses in procurement governance.

While highlighting that the government would not interfere in ongoing investigations, Anwar made clear his unease over recent developments involving alleged misconduct.

"As a matter of policy, we do not interfere in the course of investigations, but we are not comfortable with these developments."

He said decisive action was necessary, highlighting parties who continued to trivialise corruption or attempt to justify it.

He warned that failure to act decisively would have far-reaching consequences beyond the institutions involved.

On Monday, Khaled warned that those responsible for compromising Malaysia's security via corruption or misconduct would lose everything.

This is after a string of controversies implicated the armed forces, including the remand of former army chief General Tan Sri Muhammad Hafizuddeain Jantan and his two wives by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to facilitate investigations into alleged irregularities in military procurement.

Separately, allegations of immoral activities at military camps have circulated on social media, prompting an internal probe.

In a related development, Anwar said shortcomings in meeting physical development targets should not be allowed to tarnish entire ministries or agencies, including the uniformed services.

He was responding to Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar's disclosure that 14 ministries failed to meet targets for physical development projects last year.

"There should be no negative perception towards the ministries or the uniformed forces. Action will be taken against officers who are involved," said Anwar.

He reaffirmed his confidence in the professionalism and commitment of the armed forces and police, stressing that calls for improved performance should not be seen as a blanket indictment of the system.

"When there are calls for performance to be improved, this does not mean that the entire system is at fault. There are simply some actions that must be expedited, especially projects that directly affect the people."

He said similar to corruption cases, the weaknesses identified involved only a small minority and were not systemic in nature.

Earlier, Shamsul said 14 ministries performed below the national average in terms of physical development and that their respective secretaries-general would be summoned to explain the shortcomings.