

UNCHECKED FOR DECADES

GOVT TAKING FIRM ACTION AGAINST BUCK ECONOMY

Enforcement boosted against activities that drain national revenue, says PM

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THE government is taking firm action against cartels and the black economy, including long-standing smuggling networks that have

been left unchecked for decades, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday that enforcement agencies had intensified efforts in the past two years to clamp down on illicit activities that were undermining governance, distorting markets and draining national revenue.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

He said the crackdown involved multiple agencies, including the Inland Revenue Board (IRB), anti-money laundering authorities (AMLA), Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the Customs Department.

However, he said, dismantling these networks and repairing weaknesses in governance would take time as the problem was “systemic”.

Anwar was responding to a sup-

plementary question by Wan Siful Wan Jan (PN-Tasek Gelugor) on the worsening black economy, smuggling and leakages, as well as alleged “commissions” linked to securing contracts.

“I appreciate the views raised because issues like commissions and the black economy are being handled firmly.

“For the first time, there have been steps over the past two years by enforcement bodies — IRB,

AMLA, MACC, Customs — because certain cartel groups, including the black economy at Port Klang, have been left unaddressed for decades, according to records.

“Now, action has been taken,” he said during Prime Minister’s Question Time.

He said he viewed the issue seriously and assured members of parliament that the government would provide updates on enforcement measures undertaken.