

PM: Accountability, integrity vital for defence

PETALING JAYA: Public trust in the national defence institution cannot be built on slogans alone, but must be strengthened through professionalism, accountability and consistent integrity at every level of administration and operations, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

In a social media post, he said this was highlighted during a courtesy call from the newly appointed Army chief Jeneral Datuk Azhan Md Othman yesterday.

They also discussed the Army's strategic role as the nation's defensive bulwark and a pillar of hope for the people.

"In the context of current challenges, including issues of abuse of power and corruption that could tarnish the institution's image, I emphasised there can be no compromise when it comes to breaches of trust," said Anwar.

"This calls for transparency, honesty and the courage to address weaknesses in order to safeguard the dignity of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

"The Madani government will continue to support the Army's efforts to remain a credible, professional and respected force, while ensuring the welfare of officers, personnel, their families and veterans is given due attention," he said.

The Star reported on Wednesday that Anwar issued a



Warm welcome:
Anwar shaking hands with Jen Azhan during the courtesy call in Kuala Lumpur. — Photo courtesy of Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia

stern warning to enforcement officers, giving them a one-week ultimatum to go on an all-out fight against corruption and smuggling.

Officers who are unwilling to take up the challenge may request a demotion, he said.

He stressed that it is unacceptable for senior civil servants to continue tolerating smuggling,

bribery and gangsterism.

Anwar said that it was important for all relevant enforcement agencies and departments to work as a team to ensure the nation's borders are protected from all forms of smuggling.

"Are we blind? How can our borders be penetrated just like that? Have our officers lost the meaning of values such as truth

and fairness?" he asked.

"We must work as a team and try to solve issues as best as we can," he said.

Anwar also said it is unacceptable for enforcement officers to adopt a careless, forgiving attitude towards wrongdoing.

He then urged the enforcers to immediately take action from this moment.