

Anwar gives ultimatum to enforcement chiefs, dept heads

BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

> Act decisively within one week against smuggling corruption and abuse of power or step aside'

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has issued a stark ultimatum to those in leadership and enforcement positions, giving them one week to act decisively against smuggling, corruption and abuse of power or step aside if they are unable to do so.

Speaking yesterday at the Prime Minister's address to heads of departments and enforcement agency chiefs, Anwar stressed the urgent need for integrity, accountability and bold action.

"Those entrusted with leadership and enforcement roles must either fulfil their duties or step aside.

"We cannot allow negligence, smuggling or corruption to continue unchecked. This is a matter of national interest and the public rightly expects decisive action."

While acknowledging the achievements of various agencies in managing economic and enforcement matters, Anwar said serious gaps and weaknesses remain.

"Although we can list the successes we have achieved, we must also recognise the areas that require improvement.

"Gratitude is important but self-reflection is equally essential. We must examine our strengths, address weaknesses and correct shortcomings."

Anwar said he had become acutely aware of both the capabilities and limitations within enforcement agencies after three years in office.

He said while Malaysia is fortunate to have competent civil servants and enforcement officers, problems such as smuggling, illegal activities and lapses in enforcement continue to persist.

"Within this one-week period, inform your superiors or inform me directly if you feel unable to take bold action. Step aside if necessary. The people of this country are looking for genuine change and action, not complacency."



Anwar being greeted by participants at the event in Putrajaya yesterday. - AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

Anwar also underscored the need for close cooperation across agencies.

"We must work collectively, not in isolation. Challenges such as smuggling and corruption require united and decisive action. Those in leadership positions must set an example and act wisely and ethically."

He added that the government could no longer tolerate "business as usual" while serious violations and illegal activities are allowed to occur openly.

He warned that delays and excuses would no longer be accepted, stressing that even senior officials and those holding high-ranking positions must be

held to account.

"Regardless of rank or position, what matters is doing what is right and necessary for the nation. We have a responsibility to safeguard our families, society and beloved country.

"I pray that this directive will be implemented effectively and without delay."

He said reforms and accountability are crucial to preserving the integrity of the nation's institutions.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Datuk Seri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar said this year would be marked by faster execution of work, in line with the

prime minister's directive.

"This means we must ensure strict compliance, strengthen governance and reinforce proper administrative practices.

"This year, we will intensify enforcement efforts and tackle corruption, abuse of power and actions that do not comply with regulations."

Asked whether officials would step down within the week following Anwar's warning, Shamsul Azri said: "We will see. *Insyah-Allah*. Now, we mean business."

He said the one-week timeframe reflects the government's emphasis on urgency and swift action.