

PM: Corruption investigations on prominent figures not politically motivated [NSTTV]

By Hana Naz Harun, Mohamed Basyir - June 19, 2023 @ 12:26pm

KUALA LUMPUR: Investigations of corruption on prominent political figures, including former prime ministers, are not politically motivated, the Dewan Negara heard today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) acted independently and impartially in investigating any case.

"Because they are prominent political figures, there will be positive and negative perceptions, but we must stick to the facts and the law.

"Some people may say that such allegations are politically motivated, but you must look at the facts and not political sentiments to confuse the public.

"If it is clear in terms of investigation, and there is strong enough reason to charge, it is the responsibility of the MACC and the Attorney-General's Chambers.

He said this in a reply to a question from Senator Datuk Kesavadas A. Achyuthan Nair who had asked the seriousness of the graft-busters in investigating all cases of corruption and abuse of power involving former prime ministers.

Anwar added that the public, including Dewan Negara members, should lend its strong support to clear the nation of corruption.

His instruction as Prime Minister, he said, was for all investigating bodies, whether the Inland Revenue Board (IRB), MACC, Bank Negara Malaysia, or the police to take action professionally and without fear or favour.

"If when you were in power, you used your power to give contracts to your children, family and cronies, and to make yourself rich, don't question why the MACC is investigating you.

"And when you are being investigated, don't take it as a political insult. Now each action being taken (against the corrupt) is used as political material, and this is dangerous.

"If there is proof that any investigating body acts on political orders, then you can raise (the issue)," he added.

On Friday, it was reported that the house of opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin was raided by the IRB, who had seized several documents.

Hamzah, who is also Perikatan Nasional (PN) secretary-general, had since brushed off such reports, but the news gained much criticism from other PN leaders including its chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

They had alleged that the raid was politically-motivated and meant to smear PN and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia's name ahead of the elections in six states.

The IRB, in response, had said the inspection of taxpayers' residential premises was an enforcement activity carried out by the agency in the case of a tax investigation, and not one that targeted any specific party.