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Tajuk : No obstacles, no interference in investigations involving NAFAS, Khazanah – PM Anwar



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BUTTERWORTH: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has insisted that he will not obstruct and interfere in the investigation of the National Farmers' Association (NAFAS) and Khazanah Nasional Bhd (Khazanah) by authorities including the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

He said the investigation must be done fairly regardless of rank and position or whether it involves government or private companies.

"Now the issue of the Constitution of the National Farmers' Organization (NAFAS) is buzzing. Although it is an independent body, it is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Recently there was also the case of Khazanah Nasional Bhd, whose chairman is the Prime Minister. "But I will not hinder the investigation if there is a report. If it's wrong, investigate. If it's wrong, prosecute. If it's wrong, it's legal," he said when he officiated the 2024 National Level Hawkers and Small Traders Day Carnival (HPPK) at the PICCA Convention Center, Butterworth Arena, Penang today.

Earlier, MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki was reported to have said the commission had started an investigation into investment losses amounting to RM43.9 million suffered by Khazanah and Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) in FashionValet.

Anwar said he also submitted to the MACC to carry out an investigation into NAFAS and the alleged involvement of cartels in the distribution and supply of rice fertilizer contracts.

“I have been angry for a long time with the cartel that only takes care of its group, not the people,” he said.

Anwar also said the MADANI Government is committed to defending the fate of the people, especially the B40 and M40 groups, whose government revenue savings through targeting subsidies can be channeled to the deserving groups, as well as helping hawkers and small traders.

The Prime Minister said the government will also conduct a continuous study to ensure that the targeting of subsidies is not burdensome.

“We are withdrawing the subsidy for the T15 group; however, we are still studying that because we are worried that there may be people who earn RM13,000 but have five children, and two are studying at university. That may be a burden. We are studying this,” he said.

Meanwhile, Anwar suggested that associations of hawkers and small traders establish cooperatives that can join forces to reduce management and administration costs.

“I ask (the cooperative body) to coordinate with Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Bhd (ANGKASA) so that there is no overlap; ANGKASA already has a distribution center in almost every district,” he said.

In the ceremony, Anwar also launched the National Hawkers and Small Traders Development Policy 2030 (D3PKN2030) with the theme ‘Holders and Small Traders are the Heart of the National Economy’.

The policy aims to empower hawkers and small traders towards a holistic and inclusive business environment to contribute to the development of the country’s economy and the well-being of society as a whole.

Also present were Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick and his deputy Datuk Seri R Ramanan, Chief Secretary Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar, Penang Deputy Chief Minister 1 Datuk Dr Mohamad Abdul Hamid, and the President of the Association of Malaysian Malay Traders and Small Traders (GPPPKMM) Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Majid.

HPPK is celebrated on November 18 every year to appreciate the contribution of hawkers and small traders to the national economy.

Themed ‘MADANI Hawkers and Small Traders: Viable, Sustainable, Sustainable’, this year’s celebration brings together hawkers and small traders from all over the country in a three-day carnival that ends tomorrow.

— BERNAMA