

MISAPPROPRIATED AND LEAKED MONEY

PM: WE WILL RECOVER MORE STOLEN FUNDS

'RM15.5b collected in 2 years doesn't reflect full scale of losses caused by fraud, weaknesses'

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is confident that the government can recover far more misappropriated and leaked public funds than the RM15.5 billion collected over the past two years.

He said the amount recovered so far did not reflect the full scale of losses caused by leakages, fraud and systemic weaknesses.

"This is the people's money, funds that were taken, leaked and lost due to fraud and weaknesses.

"If you ask me whether this is enough, I am not convinced."

Speaking at the 44th World Customs Day celebration here, Anwar said the government was prepared to rise to the challenge



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the 44th World Customs Day celebration in Cyberjaya yesterday. NSTP PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

of recovering funds that had been lost or stolen to safeguard the nation.

He said the additional revenue recovered was the result of close cooperation between the Customs Department and enforcement agencies, including the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, police, Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry and Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC).

Anwar expressed pride in the Customs Department's performance, describing the achievements as the result of discipline, teamwork and strong inter-agency collaboration.

"Through this cooperation and seriousness of purpose, we have not only recorded commendable performance, but also succeeded in recovering additional funds that were taken, leaked and lost due to fraud and other weaknesses."

He cautioned that integrity issues and systemic weaknesses remained, warning that "seeds of decay" could undermine hard-won progress if left unaddressed.

He said there was still room for improvement and urged officers to further strengthen governance, close gaps and enhance performance.

"We are grateful for encouraging achievements such as economic growth and the strengthening of the ringgit, but these alone are not sufficient to elevate the dignity and standing of the nation.

"That is why we must constantly ask what more can be done to improve performance and strengthen our capabilities."