



Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali (centre) showing items related to public awareness of corruption at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Complex in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. With him is MACC Chief Commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki (left). BERNAMA PIC

Zuki, MACC to discuss govt procurement leakage problem

KUALA TERENGGANU: Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali will convene a meeting with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in regard to the allegation of leakage of government procurement involving civil servants.

He said the matter must be addressed immediately for fear that it would slow down the economic recovery process, especially now that the country was still facing the threats of Covid-19.

"So I will discuss with them on what we should do next or the preventive measures that we can take. I'm worried that our country will not be able to progress as rapidly as we planned," he said at the opening of the new Terengganu MACC Complex at Bandar Baru Bukit Besar, here yesterday.

Apart from that, Zuki said Malaysia received international recognition in handling Covid-19, including being ranked fourth among 184 countries in the Global Covid-19 Recovery Index up to August and fifth among 23 countries in the Toluna-Blackbox Index for Perception and Crisis Management.

He said the recognition proved the determination and commitment of civil servants in translating all government strategies, such as the Economic Recovery Plan and Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package.

"Efforts to revive and revitalise the country's economy require more precise and committed efforts from all civil servants.

"Immediate post-Covid-19 initiatives such as the implementation of high-impact projects and the distribution of aid to the people will certainly be hampered if there are issues of corruption among civil servants themselves."

MACC Chief Commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki, who also attended the event, said MACC had completed the investigation paper on the 2015 property scam in Melbourne, Australia involving a senior officer of Majlis Amanah Rakyat, who is also a former politician.

He said the prosecution of two or three individuals involved was expected to be done in the next two or three weeks.

"To me, this is a high-profile case," he said, adding that the MACC had also opened 27 investigation papers on corruption during the Sabah election last Saturday. **Bernama**

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

'PROCUREMENT GRAFT CRITICAL'

MACC chief commissioner says 50pc of probes involved such cases

PUTRAJAYA

CORRUPTION cases resulting in leakage of government procurement involving civil servants are seen to be increasingly critical, said Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Chief Commissioner Datuk Seri Azam Baki.

Without revealing the statistics, he said there were several cases of leakage of government

procurement involving government agencies and 50 per cent of the MACC's investigation work involved such cases.

"I can say that, based on the MACC analysis, such wastages are common in the public sector, where they (the top leadership of government agencies), who are in power in deciding a matter (government procurement), are involved in misappropriation and abuse of power.

"When there is a leakage of gov-

ernment procurement, our investigation shows that there is an element of corruption that causes a certain value of government procurement to rise," he said at MACC's 53rd anniversary yesterday.

For example, Azam said if a government procurement was worth RM1 million, then the value of corruption would also increase.

"Not only that, it also affects the quality of the project. The latest case involving a road upgrade project in Sarawak, where the quality of the project has been reduced to the point that it is prone to damage, has caused millions of ringgit in losses to the government."

Azam said MACC needed to work with the Public Works Department and consult experts on the matter.

Last month, Bernama reported that MACC arrested two directors of a company with the title of Datuk on suspicion of corruption and submitting false claims worth millions of ringgit in connection with the implementation of 10 road upgrading projects in Sarawak worth RM800 million.

Asked whether such cases occurred in the private sector, Azam said MACC had received reports involving the private sector, but

the number was not as worrying as in the public sector.

"MACC (will) investigate both parties (public and private sectors) if it involves government procurement and to bring them to court."

Meanwhile, commenting on efforts to turn Malaysia into a corruption-free country, Azam said it demanded that MACC be mature in all its actions involving enforcement, prevention and community education in combating corruption.

"At present, as we are living with the new norms in the face of Covid-19, the situation poses challenges to MACC in its struggle to create a corruption-free society.

"Before Covid-19, MACC went out into the field to give briefings and conduct campaigns against corruption to the community. But since Covid-19, it uses mostly video and social media to interact with the community."

Azam also said MACC included elements of anti-corruption education in the textbook of Year Five students, which will come into effect next year.

"Apart from preventive measures, MACC also focuses on educating society in improving the integrity of individuals," he added. **Bernama**

	SUBUH (am)	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR (pm)	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Melaka	5:50	6:58	1:03	4:12	7:05	8:13
Penang	5:58	7:04	1:10	4:23	7:11	8:20
K. Lumpur	5:53	6:59	1:05	4:16	7:07	8:15
Johor Baru	5:44	6:52	12:57	4:05	6:58	8:07
Kuantan	5:47	6:55	1:00	4:10	7:01	8:10
Ipoh	5:56	7:01	1:08	4:19	7:09	8:18