

343 REPORTS IN 8 YEARS

Many civil servants not brave enough to report graft, says MACC

PUTRAJAYA: Only 0.01 per cent of the 1.6 million civil servants are brave enough to report corrupt practices in their departments and agencies, said Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention) Datuk Seri Shamsun Baharin Mohd Jamil.

He said the figure was low, despite the incentives provided to them.

Based on MACC's data, he said, only 343 civil servants provided information on corrupt practices between 2012 and last year.

"Civil servants have to understand that it is an offence for them to accept bribes. They should lodge a report if they are

offered a bribe so that action can be taken.

"By doing so, they (civil servants) can prevent those who have to deal with civil servants from requesting for favours and privileges, like getting approval for an application without going through the proper procedures.

"We want this to be a culture among civil servants, that is, to lodge reports on corrupt practices, as this will eliminate corruption and abuse of power in the civil service," he told



Datuk Seri Shamsun Baharin Mohd Jamil

Bernama in an exclusive interview at the MACC office here recently.

Shamsun Baharin cited a letter issued by the Office of the Chief Secretary to the government in 2011 on guidelines for recognition of civil servants who reported bribery cases. It stated that civil servants who do so would receive the same amount of the bribe offered as an incentive.

He said MACC disbursed about RM600,000 in incentives to 343

civil servants until the end of last year for lodging reports on corruption in their departments and agencies.

He said it was the duty of civil servants to report bribery transactions and those who failed to do so could face action under Section 25 of the MACC Act 2009, which provides for a fine of up to RM100,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or both if found guilty.

He said in the first case where the law was applied, five employees of the Finance Ministry were fined between RM1,500 and RM2,000 by the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court on Dec 2.

"Failure to report bribery trans-

actions is also subject to action as there is such a law and this is to open the eyes of civil servants and the public to be more sensitive and to come forward to report corruption cases happening around them."

He said departments and agencies need to play their role by providing support and protection to staff or officers who reported corruption cases to build a corruption-free society.

He gave the assurance that MACC would protect those who provided information on corruption under the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 and the Witness Protection Act 2009. **Berna-**

ma