

No selective prosecution of anyone, PM pledges [NSTTV]

By Veena Babulal - March 1, 2022



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said there were many ongoing corruption cases in court, including those involving political leaders. - BERNAMA pic.

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is committed to combating corruption and does not practice selective prosecution, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said there were many ongoing corruption cases in court, including those involving political leaders.

"It doesn't matter if they are from the government or opposition.

"The number of court cases shows that the government is serious in taking action against anyone involved in corruption," he said, pointing out that the government is not protecting anyone.

Ismail Sabri said those who are responsible will be brought before the court.

"One cannot say that the government is protecting certain people or prosecuting certain individuals to please some quarters."

"We don't know if there was selective prosecution in the past, but today, there is no selective prosecution involving anyone.

"That is the government's promise," he said during Question time.

The Prime Minister said this in reply to a supplementary question from Parliamentary Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (PH-Port Dickson) who asked on the seriousness of the government leadership to state that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) should act without hesitation against anyone.

Meanwhile, in reply to Anwar's original question on the government's stance on the downgrading of Malaysia's position in Transparency International 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) to number 62 out of 180 countries, Ismail Sabri said the fact that Malaysia's preparedness to be assessed and ranked in the CPI proved the country's transparency and commitment to improving its governance.

The Prime Minister added that the government also remained committed to implementing the initiatives under the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) 2021.

"However, we must remember that improvement efforts are long-term efforts and the results will only be seen in the future," he said.

He said the CPI ranking was done based on perceptions through studies by international institutions and Malaysia's CPI for 2021 was calculated based on nine out of 13 studies conducted by various international agencies.

Ismail Sabri said the report showed that among the nine Asean member countries, Malaysia ranked second best after Singapore.

"Among the factors that influenced the scores and ranks of countries in the CPI are the different questions used for different countries, respondents or the target groups and the number of countries involved each year. For example, the CPI 2021 does not involve Brunei.

"The government, through the National Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Centre (GIACC) has held several engagement sessions with the stakeholders to ensure that the CPI report is fairly prepared and provides the true picture," he said.