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DR M SAYS SAMY VELLU WILL NOT FACE SUSPENSION

Mahathir - Samy Vellu

(P) Dr. Mahathir.
KUALA TERENGGANU, July 15 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister said Datuk Seri Samy Vellu, now under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Agency, will not be suspended from the Cabinet.

Nor will the Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister be asked to go on leave because of the ACA probe, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Unlike a government officer who faces suspension if under ACA investigation, such a procedure does not apply to a minister, he said.

The Prime Minister said this when reporters raised the matter at a news conference after he chaired a Cabinet meeting at Wisma Darul Iman here.

The difference was that government officers handled government funds but not ministers, he said.-- more

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Mahathir - Samy Vellu 2 Kuala Terengganu

+We don't have such a ruling. What we have is if he is under investigation, we'll wait for the outcome,+ Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said the government's credibility had not suffered by allowing a minister under investigation to carry on with his normal duties since one is innocent until proven guilty.

He said the question of credibility would arise had the government prevented the ACA from conducting investigations on a minister.

What happened was the government did not stop the ACA from probing into someone that required investigating, he said.

It was in fact a case of government credibility as by allowing the ACA to conduct investigation on a minister, the government had earned credit for itself, Dr Mahathir said.-- more

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Mahathir - Samy Vellu 3 (last) Kuala Terengganu

+I still recall the case of Abdul Rahman Talib (former Education Minister) who was accused...brought to court. He was not fired until he was proven guilty,+ Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister also dismissed speculation of an impending Cabinet reshuffle.-- Bernama

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