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ACA-Sabah

UMNO SUGGESTS MINISTER UNDER ACA PROBE GO ON LEAVE

KOTA KINABALU, June 8 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Umno Youth today suggested that a Sabah minister under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) go on long leave so that investigations could be conducted independently without hitches.

The movement's chief Jema Khan Datuk Majid said the Chief Minister should advise the minister concerned to take leave.

"We also want the state government to ensure that its whole cabinet is free from corruption and graft," Jema Khan said in a statement.

The issue surfaced when Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Azmi Khalid told the Dewan Rakyat in April that seven state executive councillors -- three from Melaka and one each from Johor, Pahang, Kedah and Selangor -- and a Sabah state minister were under probe by the ACA.

However, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad had said they did not have to resign until conviction.

Dr Mahathir had said that one should not be guilty just because there were accusations against him.

Jema Khan said the movement had received numerous complaints from disgruntled locals on the issue.

"If there is concrete evidence, those involved should be brought to justice," said Jema Khan.

The Sabah Umno Youth did not want the people to conclude that the administration was corrupt just because one state minister was under investigation, he said.

Jema Khan also urged all members of the state cabinet and government officials to declare their assets. -- BERNAMA

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