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ACA

ACA INCREASES STAFF IN LINE WITH ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT 1997

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- The Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) will be beefed up with 237 more staff in line with the expansion of its jurisdiction under the Anti-Corruption Act 1997.

ACA Director-General Datuk Shafee Yahaya said today the new staff were being recruited by the Public Services Commission and the ACA, at the lower level.

"The new staff will be reporting for work in a month or two and will undergo nine months' training before being sent out to the ACA divisions and units," he said after the launch of a movement to consolidate the integrity system of the government's administrative management, here.

Shafee hoped that the longer training, including practical training and case studies, would produce more capable officers and staff.

He said the move was apt because the new act, which came into force today, required more staff with the setting up of the supervisory division responsible for scrutinising the work procedures and systems of public departments and agencies.

The supervisory division would look into the weaknesses of a department's or agency's system and procedures like inadequate supervision and staff indiscipline which could lead to a high incidence of corruption, he said.

Shafee said the Management Integrity Committee which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also launched at the function today entrusted the heads of department with the task of monitoring the work procedures and supervisory aspects and rectifying the weaknesses themselves.

"Besides that, there is also a need to upgrade transparency in providing service to society, including having a client's charter whereby the department must ensure that the work process and the time fixed are adhered to to reduce the opportunities for corruption," he said.

Asked whether the act would apply to cases still under investigation, Shafee said the investigation methods under the new act could be used for the investigation of old cases.

"However, the penalties for cases already under investigation should be those under the old act, namely the Prevention of Corruption Act 1961," he said.

-- BERNAMA

ZAI JK