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Halim: Set up integrity committees by Feb 7

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali today directed all 48 departments and agencies under the Prime Minister's Department to set up management integrity committees by Feb 7.

These committees are aimed at combating corruption in the public service.

He issued the directive at a meeting with the heads of departments and agencies where copies of the Prime Minister's directive on the matter were also distributed.

"As organisations under the Prime Minister's Department, we must assist the Government and heed the directive. We must be an organisation for other departments and agencies to emulate," he said at the meeting.

The agencies under the Prime Minister's Department include the National Security Council, the Anti-Corruption Agency, the Economic Planning Unit and the Attorney-General's Chambers.

Halim said meetings must be held every three months and each committee must submit a report to a higher-level committee.

"Reports should be precise, accurate but brief," he said.

Halim said departments and agencies under other ministries would also have to set up their own committees.

On Jan 8, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had issued a directive to Menteri Besar, Chief Ministers, ministry secretaries-general, service chiefs, State secretaries and heads of government departments and agencies to set up integrity committees to combat corruption and abuse among government servants.

He gave them a month to set up the committees at the Federal, State and district levels.

They will come under the recently-launched Cabinet Committee on Integrity in Government Management chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The committees are aimed at overcoming weaknesses in the Government's financial management and public administration.

They will also seek ways to curb corruption, abuse of power and irregularities in the public service.

The directive, among others, spells out measures for internal control to check corruption, code of ethics for civil servants, detection and punitive action against employees involved in corruption, and rehabilitation measures.

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