

10 JAN 1998

Corruption-Committee

CORRUPTION: ONE MONTH GIVEN TO FORM INTEGRITY COMMITTEES

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has given a month to Menteri Besar, Chief Ministers, heads of services and departments to issue directives for the formation of integrity committees in efforts to check corruption among civil servants.

According to the Prime Minister's directive No 1, Year 1998, issued on Thursday, all of them were chairmen of the committees and should issue circulars speedily to their respective departments and agencies for the formation of the committees or use existing committees.

The directive was in line with the the movement to consolidate the integrity system of the government's administrative management at federal, state and district levels.

The committees were formed to handle weaknesses in the government's financial management, administration, corruption cases, abuse of power and other irregularities.

The committees are under the supervision of the Special Cabinet Committee On Government Management chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

According to the Prime Minister's directive, state governments through the committee chairmen should ensure that such committees were also formed at local authority level.

In the 50-page directive, the Prime Minister also outlined the work code of ethics for the various departments, identifying and taking action against civil servants involved in corruption, types of internal monitoring by the departments to prevent corruption and remedial action for the department involved.

The Prime Minister said internal monitoring to check corruption could be carried out in the course of duties of the senior officers by stepping up supervision and ensuring transparency in management.

This could be done through a system of monitoring important aspects of the department's management particularly those concerning public interests, finance, development and enforcement and also speeding up approval of applications, transparency in policy implementation and acting on all complaints.

The proposed remedial measures included giving advice to the officer concerned, ensuring close supervision of officers facing problems of debt burden, transferring officers to areas which they would have no opportunities to be involved in corruption and rotating of officers who could be exposed to corruption and irregularities. -- BERNAMA

RAZ AAM