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Corruption-Directive

SYMPTOMS OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC SERVICE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- A lavish lifestyle, including having excessive jewellery and ornaments, luxury cars and making frequent visits abroad are some of the symptoms of the existence of corrupt practice among civil servants, according to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

These symptoms were outlined in the Prime Minister's Directive 1/1998 issued to all menteri besar, chief ministers, ministry secretaries-general, service chiefs, state secretaries and heads of government departments and agencies.

It said such staff often worked alone in secret places during office breaks or outside office hours, were inconsistent in their productivity, overly involved in matters unrelated to the department, made long telephone calls, were secretive and involved in gambling, malingering and often visited entertainment centres.

The directive also outlined actions for internal control, a code of ethics and actions to detect corrupt practice in the public service.

The state governments, ministries and government departments and agencies must also set up management integrity committees to combat corruption in the public service internally and in a comprehensive, systematic and continuous manner, it said.

The integrity committees in government administration management at federal, state and district levels were aimed, among other things, at overcoming the weaknesses in the government's financial management, public administration, conduct of disciplinary cases, corruption, abuse of power and irregularities, it added.

The committees were set up under the Cabinet Committee on Integrity in Government Management chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Dr Mahathir, when launching the movement to consolidate the integrity system of the government administration management, here, today handed over a copy of the directive and the Anti-Corruption Act 1997 to eight representatives of the government machinery.

In the directive, the prime minister also said that the integrity committees were set up following the corruption trend which, if not curbed, "could threaten public safety, burden the people and give rise to injustice caused by the greed and betrayal of trust by those in power."

Hence, he said, the problem must be tackled in a comprehensive, integrated and systematic manner covering aspects like prevention of corruption, efficiency, transparency, integrity and accountability in government administration.

At the ministry level, the committee is chaired by the secretary-general and comprises the directors and heads of government departments and divisions, legal adviser, religious officers and internal auditors.

At the state level, it is chaired by the menteri besar or chief minister and comprises, among others, the state executive councillors responsible for development, land, housing, religion and local government.

-- BERNAMA

RAZ JK