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Towards a better civil service

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MALACCA, Mon. - The Government is developing systematic approaches to overcome weaknesses in the civil service, including corruption and abuse of power, and to ensure plans for economic recovery are carried out without delay.

Guidelines on this are expected to be adopted during a one-day Bengkel Kerja Untuk Keutuhan Pengurusan Jabatan-jabatan Kerajaan (Workshop to Strengthen the Management of Government Departments) to be held at the National Institute of Public Administration in Bukit Kiara on Aug 25.

The workshop, to be opened by the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, will be attended by State secretaries, heads of department and senior officers from the Federal and State Governments.

It is organised by the Anti-Corruption Agency and the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department.

ACA director-general Datuk Shafee Yahaya said the programme was part of efforts by the Cabinet Committee on Integrity in Government Management to overcome weaknesses in financial management and public administration.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had on Jan 8 directed Menteri Besar, Chief Ministers, Ministry secretaries-general, service chiefs, State secretaries and heads of department and agency to set up "integrity committees" to combat corruption and abuse of power among government servants.

The committees come within the purview of the Cabinet Committee, which is chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Shafee said an efficient work system and methodologies would be adopted as "sustainable" and standard guidelines to cut red tape.

"The Prime Minister's idea of having the workshop is to ensure all plans for economic recovery can be carried out without glitches or delays."

Shafee said this after visiting the State ACA office in Wisma Graha Maju. Also present were ACA director Abdul Malek Sheikh Abdullah and senior officers.

Shafee said the workshop would also attempt to improve the productivity and efficiency of civil servants.

"The whole machinery (government departments) must be improved.

"Our task is to ensure that all efforts towards reviving the economy can be carried out as planned. In this respect, we will work closely with the departments and agencies."

He also said the ACA would monitor heads of department after the workshop to ensure compliance with its decisions.

Shafee said a report on the outcome of the workshop would be submitted to the Cabinet.

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