

PM does not meddle in graft cases: ACA

in - 7 JUL 2000

LANGKAWI, Thurs: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has not interfered in any corruption case nor has he stopped any investigation, Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) director-general Datuk Ahmad Zaki Husin said today.

"In my tenure as director-general in the past one year, the Prime Minister has not influenced or acted in any way prejudicial to ACA cases.

"The Prime Minister had given some advice and at times even criticised ACA's handling of cases or our actions.

"However, it has never crossed my mind that he

He has never stopped any
of our probes, says DG

wants to interfere in ACA investigation because he made the remarks as the head of government," he said.

Ahmad Zaki was speaking after a meeting with ACA administrative officers and employees at the City Bayview Hotel here.

On the recent testimony of former ACA director-general Datuk Shafee Yahaya during Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy trial, Ahmad Zaki said neither he personally

nor the ACA can comment as it may be seen as in contempt of court.

He also said Mahathir has stressed the need for the ACA to conduct its investigations carefully and avoid being used by third parties who may have ulterior motives.

From his experience, Ahmad Zaki said, the Prime Minister has not ordered the ACA to investigate anyone or close any case.

"Everything is done based

on evidence and the law."

He also said that as the head of the agency, he is open to criticism, whether it is from the Prime Minister, the Opposition, lawyers or the public in general.

"The ACA's policy is consistent. There is a need to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the person being investigated is guilty," he said, adding that he has directed ACA investigators to be more sensitive when obtaining evidence.

"The ACA has to work in total secrecy as the public may consider a person to be guilty once news leaks out that he is being investigated."