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Auditors urged to uphold work ethics

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told auditors to prioritise on integrity and not be influenced by certain sentiments when discharging their duties.

They should not allow themselves to be used by some parties, including the media, to implicate a person, the prime minister said.

"In fact, auditors should not be swayed by public sentiment or by their clients," he said after opening the Commonwealth Auditors-General's Confe-

rence here, which was attended by about 100 auditors from 37 countries.

Mahathir said there are not many police cases involving auditors in government departments in the country. "There is nothing major, nothing serious like pocketing money. We take corrective action," he said.

Earlier in his speech, the prime minister urged the auditors-general to contemplate of the meaning of independence in relation to work ethics.

"An auditor-general very often, in

the course of discharging his duties, becomes privy to highly confidential matters or even secrets pertaining to national defence or national economy.

"Reporting for the sake of public excitement and sensationalising certain issues should be avoided. The auditor-general should exercise professional judgment to weigh the pros and cons of disclosing such matters to the public, as the repercussions may be far-reaching and detrimental to the long-term interest of the nation as a whole," he said.