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Ex-Minister Annuar quizzed by ACA

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Officers from the Anti-Corruption Agency have quizzed former Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa in connection with the alleged misappropriation of funds from the Programme for the Hardcore Poor in Kelantan and Terengganu.

It was learnt that ACA officers went to Annuar's house in Damansara Heights over the weekend and took documents to enable the agency to study if further action, including an arrest, should be taken.

ACA director-general Datuk Zulkipli Mat Nor, when contacted by the New Straits Times today, confirmed that the agency was investigating the alleged misappropriation of RM36.5 million from the fund.

However, he declined to comment when asked if Annuar had been questioned.

When asked if the ACA had seized documents from Annuar's homes in Jalan Setiabakti 3, Damansara Heights or in Bukit Marak, near Bachok in Kelantan, Zulkipli declined to comment.

When an NST team went to Annuar's house here today it was locked up. The only one there was the security guard.

The latest development is believed to be a follow-up investigation into the case by ACA officers following the arrest of a 43-year-old company director involved in two programmes for the hardcore poor in Kelantan and Terengganu last year.

The director was later released.

The ACA also interviewed several witnesses and seized documents from government departments and offices in Kuala Lumpur and Kelantan.

Others arrested by the police, but later released on bail were former Rural Development Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Abdul Aziz Muhamad, Central Terengganu Development Authority (Ketengah) general manager Datuk Awi @ Alwi Said, Rural Development Ministry deputy secretary-general Mohd Ariff Abu Bakar and former Risda director-general Datuk Nik Kamaruddin Nik Abdul Kadir.

Annuar, when met by a Berita Harian reporter at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya, said he was unaware of the rumours that he had been quizzed by the ACA.

"That's your business," he said.

Asked what was his meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about, Annuar, said it was to discuss certain Umno matters and the setting up of the Malaysia-Indonesia Friendship Society.

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