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Parliament-WindUp (Corruption)

ABDULLAH SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO WIPE OUT GRAFT - DR RAIS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi should be given a chance to prove his determination to root out corruption at all levels of the government administration, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said today.

He said the country's new leadership under Abdullah was determined to wipe out corruption in whatever form and practice.

"In line with his graft-busting agenda, the government will ensure the country's administration is free from corruption, irregularities and abuse of power," he said when winding up the debate on the Mid-Term Review of the Eighth Malaysia Plan in the Dewan Rakyat.

Former Prime Minister and Finance Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad tabled the Mid-Term Review in Parliament on Oct 30.

While Dr Rais was winding-up the debate, Mahfuz Omar (PAS-Pokok Sena) interjected, saying the commitment to wipe out corruption was an old story that had been promised by the government 22 years ago.

"Give a chance to the new leadership to rid this nation of malpractices.

"It has been only six days our new prime minister has assumed the post. We cannot conclude this is an old story," he said.

In fact, Abdullah himself had come up with the idea to set up the National Integrity Institute aimed at tackling the corruption menace in the country, he said.

"The institute, once operational, will help the government ensure a smooth administration," he added.

The motion was later passed.

-- BERNAMA

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