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Mahathir-Corruption

DR MAHATHIR VIEWS CRACKDOWN ON CORRUPTION AS GOOD

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described as good stern actions taken by the government to weed out corruption and criminal breach of trust.

"It is good," he said when asked by reporters for his view on the matter today.

Dr Mahathir, looking jovial, was approached by reporters at Intan Bukit Kiara here after his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali was presented with the Fellow Intan Award 2003.

His successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had since taking over from him on Oct 31 last year intensified efforts to rid the nation of corrupt practices.

This week saw two prominent individuals brought before the court on corruption charges. Former Perwaja Steel Sdn Bhd managing director Tan Sri Eric Chia was charged on Feb 10 with criminal breach of trust involving a state agency's fund amounting to RM76.4 million.

The following day, Land and Cooperative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam pleaded not guilty to corruption and cheating charges pertaining to the sale of Sapi Plantation Sdn Bhd shares held by the Sabah Land Development Board (SLDB) in 1996, said to have been committed by him in his capacity as executive chairman of SLDB.

In Jelebu, Negeri Sembilan yesterday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the authorities were finalising investigations into 18 more corruption cases involving high-profile individuals.

He was reported as saying that the suspects would be charged in court once the Attorney-General's Chambers and the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) had gathered sufficient evidence.

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