

**Zulkipli's contract expires this month: deputy
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Embattled Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) director-general Zulkipli Mat Noor's contract is expected to expire at the end of the month, said his deputy Ahmad Said Hamdan today.

Ahmad also conceded that the graft allegations against Zulkipli (right) has affected the image and reputation of the agency to a certain extent.

Zulkipli, a former high-ranking police officer, was appointed to head the ACA in 2001. Following this, his tenure was extended by both former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Previously, it was reported that Abdullah had extended the contract until 2008.

Last week, Zulkipli landed in the spotlight following the exposure of a report which contained allegations of corruption and abuse of power against him.

The report was penned by former Sabah ACA chief Mohamad Ramli Manan.

Meanwhile, Ahmad said the ACA is not involved in the ongoing investigation on its director-general.

He said the investigation is being carried out by a special committee.

The ACA is not involved in order to ensure that the probe is fair and transparent, he was quoted as saying by Bernama.

Negative reports

"Let the special committee investigate the matter. At present, he (Zulkipli) is still working and his contract is expected to expire at the end of the month.

"Whenever there are negative reports about this agency, we feel disappointed and the morale goes down and from the aspect of public perception, we are affected as well.

"But there are many ACA offices who carry out their duties earnestly, let them do their job" he added.

Ahmad said also said that such negative reporting should not be blown out of proportion so that foreigners do not have a negative impression about Malaysia as this can affect the economy.

Apart from the graft allegations, the report also highlighted that a businesswoman had accused Zulkipli of a sexual crime and assault in 1997 when he was the Johor police chief.

However, Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail later said that police investigations

then found no grounds for prosecution.

Zulkipli, who was also the former Sarawak police chief, has denied the allegations.

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