

MACC: PM will not officiate anti-graft conference

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Hafiz Yatim

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak will not be officiating the International Anti-Corruption Convention, scheduled to be held in Putrajaya next week.

This was confirmed by the conference organiser, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

MACC deputy chief commissioner II Mustafar Ali said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Paul Low would officiate the conference.

"The closing will be by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Abdul Wahid Omar," he told a press conference today.

However, Mustafar (photo) refused to comment on the reason behind Najib's decision to decline the invitation.

Najib was initially scheduled to deliver the keynote address the event.

The bi-annual international conference would see representatives from more than 130 countries and over 1,000 participants.

This is the 16th conference held by the IACC and the first in Malaysia. It is jointly organised by IACC advisory council, Transparency International and Transparency International Malaysia.

The theme for the event is 'Ending Impunity: People, Integrity, Action'.

Corruption has no boundaries

Mustafar said Sarawak Chief Minister Adenan Satem will speak at the event and share his experiences on sustainable development in the state and his fight against graft and the big timber tycoons.

"This is certainly a recognition to the Sarawak chief minister's effort to curb corruption.

"I also welcome the Pahang Menteri Besar Adnan Yaakob (photo) and his exco members to publicly declare their assets as this would stem further confidence by the people in the administration," Mustafar said.

The MACC number three, who is in charge of prevention, said Malaysia would also share its experience at the international level to curb corruption.

As it is known, Mustafar said, corruption has no boundaries.

He added that they will share their experience on corruption, law and administration.

“Our experience in setting up 14 specialised courts to deal with corruption cases to ensure justice is also being looked at. We know that justice delayed is justice denied.

“One of our efforts of having a record of those convicted of corruption, where we have a name-and-shame board of those who had been punished for corruption. The list is also being shared with the United States,” he said.

TI-M president Akbar Satar Ali said Malaysia should be proud to have this prestigious convention and this showed MACC's ability to showcase to the world and become a model in its fight against corruption.

Akbar said local and international academicians and NGOs will share their knowledge.

He also lauded Adenan's hard stance against the timber tycoons and the move to declare his assets, and hopes other states would emulate this.

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