

ACA chief's contract not extended
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The Prime Minister's Department today announced that Zulkipli Mat Noor's contract as the director-general of the Anti-Corruption Agency, which is due to expire tomorrow, will not be extended.

The statement expressed gratitude to Zulkipli for his six years as ACA chief since his appointment to the post on secondment from the police force in April 2001, and subsequently on contract from July 2005.

Despite his retirement in 2005, his service at the agency was extended twice.

"Under the leadership of Zulkipli Mat Noor, various proactive and renewal efforts were undertaken including upgrading the network of collaboration at the international level," said the statement.

"The government takes this opportunity to express the highest gratitude and thanks to Zulkipli for his services as the ACA director-general," it added.

The statement however made no mention of the explosive allegations of corruption against the country's top graft fighter.

The embattled Zulkipli - a former high ranking police officer - landed in hot soup following the exposure of a report which contained serious allegations against him, ranging from sexual assault to amassing wealth beyond his means allegedly committed when he was Johor police chief 10 years ago.

Allegations by fellow officer

Zulkipli is currently being investigated for alleged corrupt practices and threatening witnesses. He has denied the allegations.

The allegations were made by Zulkipli's former colleague, the agency's ex-Sabah chief Mohd Ramli Manan, and was first reported by malaysiakini in late February.

Early this month, ACA deputy director-general Ahmad Said Hamdan revealed that Zulkipli's contract was expected to expire at the end of this month. On Wednesday, Abdullah said he would make a decision soon on Zulkipli's contract.

It was also reported today that the police had recorded a statement from Zulkipli two days ago on the allegations made against him.

Bernama quoted Bukit Aman CID director Christopher Wan Soo Kee as saying that a special team formed last Tuesday, comprising 10 officers from Bukit Aman and Kuala Lumpur police, met Zulkifli to get some documents and to take his statement.

Twenty-one people related to the case, including Ramli, had also had their statements recorded earlier.

Ex-top cop in Sarawak

The statement from the PM's Department said Zulkipli was appointed on secondment as the ACA director-general for two years - from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2003.

"This was extended three times; from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004, April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005, and from April 1, 2005 until July 19, 2005 when he reached compulsory retirement age," added the statement.

"Subsequently his service as the ACA director-general was extended on a contract basis from July 20, 2005 until July 19, 2006, and again from July 20, 2006 to March 31, 2007," the statement added.

Zulkipli, 57 - who holds a political science and comparative economics degree from the University of Kansas, United States, and Masters in international relations and strategic studies from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom - joined the Royal Malaysia Police in 1979 as an officer in its Special Branch unit, and moved up the ranks until he became its head.

He had also served as the Johor police chief for a year in 1996 and was appointed Sarawak police commissioner in 2000 before his secondment to the ACA.

Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad who appointed Zulkipli as ACA chief six years ago claimed that he was unaware of the allegations made against the then top cop.

Zulkipli's tenure was subsequently renewed by Abdullah.

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