

ACA can probe cases in Umno

THE Anti-Corruption Agency can investigate cases within Umno but experience has shown that many of such cases did not fall under the jurisdiction of the agency.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz - who denied ever making a statement that the ACA could not investigate corruption within the party - said there were offences under the party constitution which were not offences under the Anti-Corruption Act 1997.

"For example, if we were to have an assembly in Sabah and we provide petrol money, it is considered as bribery by the Umno disciplinary board, but not an offence under the Act," he said in reply to a supplementary question by Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang.

He said, similarly, if a person was contesting a division chief's post and invited people to a big dinner, it was an offence as far

as the party was concerned, but not the agency.

"Therefore, we cannot equate an offence under Umno as an offence under the Act," he said.

On his references to whether the ACA could investigate the

party for money politics, Nazri said he was referring to cases which the party considered wrong, but not the ACA

"I did not say money politics in Umno cannot be investigated by the ACA" Nazri said.

Lim had earlier said Nazri's statement went against the National Integrity Plan and alleged that money politics within the party would breed corruption.

To a question by Datuk Astaman Abdul Aziz (BN- Titiwangsa), Nazri said the Government planned to come up with guidelines for government-linked companies on how to implement corporate social responsibility.

He said this was the next step in getting corporate bodies to have greater integrity and to care more for society's welfare.

He said measures were being undertaken to ensure successful implementation of the National Integrity Plan.