

PM: Background checks done in 2001, 2005



FIRDAUS ABDULLAH

Reporting from
HADHRAMOUT, YEMEN

THE Prime Minister has ordered a full investigation into allegations of sleaze against Anti-Corruption Agency chief Datuk Seri Zulkipli Mat Noor.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he had contacted Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan over a report submitted by a former senior ACA official accusing his former superior of corruptly amassing wealth and abusing his position.

"I view such news (about the allegations) as serious. That is why I got in touch with the IGP and he is already going through the police report and will make an assessment on the nature of the investigation.

"I don't want to go into the details. It is better for the IGP and Attorney-General to pursue this matter."

Abdullah, who is also Internal Security Minister, was asked to comment on the disclosure of police reports lodged against Zulkipli in 1997 for alleged sexual assault and documents sent to former IGP Tan Sri Mohd Bakri Omar last year by former Sabah ACA director Mohamad Ramli Manan alleging corrupt practices and the misuse of government facilities.

Speaking after winding up a three-day

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ACA chief on allegations
that he owns several
businesses and properties,
including six houses
in Pagoh; sexually
abused a woman
and misused
government vehicles...



**'LET THE LAW
DECIDE'**

There are a lot of challenges
to our line of work...

Flashback of our report which appeared on Wednesday.

working visit to Yemen late Thursday at the southern province of Hadhramout, he said Zulkipli had been subjected to background vetting prior to his appointment as ACA director-general in 2001 and again in 2005 when his term was extended for two years.

"On both instances there was nothing that could have prevented his appointment to the position. The thorough checks were conducted twice and there was nothing wrong."

Musa said on Thursday that police were checking whether Zulkipli's properties tallied with his declaration of assets and financial position.

Yesterday, he reportedly met Attorney-Gen-

eral Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail for three hours at the latter's chambers in Putrajaya on the course of action to be taken over the charges against Zulkipli, which were made public by an outfit called the Democracy and Anti-Corruption Movement on Tuesday.

Gani told the *New Straits Times* on Wednesday that Zulkipli had been cleared of sexual assault after an exhaustive investigation but urged police to speed up its probe into the allegations of graft and misconduct.

Zulkipli has denied the allegations.

Abdullah, who left for Kuala Lumpur after a tour of historic southern Arabia, is expected to be briefed by Gani and Musa on the case.