

Civil servants under probe need not quit their posts

The Star - 7/3/2007

KUALA LUMPUR: Civil servants who are being investigated for corruption need not give up their posts until investigations are completed and they are proven guilty, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"Just as in the past, we do not make them give up their positions," the Prime Minister told reporters after attending the Bank Negara board of directors quarterly meeting here yesterday.

Asked whether it was necessary for Deputy Internal Security Minister Datuk Mohd Johari Baharum who was being investigated for corruption to quit his post, he said: "How to throw him out? He is a *wakil rakyat*. You want him to quit?"

"This is just an allegation. It has not been proven that he is guilty. If he is proven guilty, certainly action will be taken against him."

Allegations against Johari surfaced when a website claimed that a politician had received RM5mil for assisting several Emergency Ordinance detainees gain their freedom.

Johari, who admitted that he was the one named by the website, has since denied the allegations, and said the authorities were free to investigate him.

On whether the corruption allegation

»If he is proven guilty, certainly action will be taken against him«

DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

against Johari was a blow to the Prime Minister's campaign against corruption, Abdullah said:

"Such incidents show that there is greater awareness among us. If proven guilty, action will be taken against the culprits."

In **JITRA**, Johari said he has yet to be called up by the police for questioning.

The Kubang Pasu MP said all he knew was that the police had started investigating the case.

► See Nation 6

Morale low, admits ACA deputy D-G;
Survey: Bribery a way of life here