

# 'Act on flaws revealed by auditor-general'

NST-24/4/2007

■ By Azura Abas  
news@nst.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Government departments must correct the deficiencies exposed in the auditor-general's report as a cornerstone of their effort to improve the delivery system and fight corruption, the deputy prime minister said.

"In managing government finances, the principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency are deemed as sacred values demanded of every civil servant," Datuk Seri Najib Razak told the Malaysian Institute of Integrity at its third anniversary yesterday.

"All government departments and agencies are to give due attention to audit reports by the auditor-general.

"They must act promptly to overcome weaknesses highlighted in the reports," he said, as part of the bold reforms necessary for the consolidation of public finances.

Najib rebutted the perception that little progress had been made in the country's battle against graft.

"When we talk about the National Integrity Plan, some people might be quick to say that the government is not serious in fighting corruption or that the prime minister is the only person speaking on the subject.

"I would like to remind everyone that this is not just the agenda of the prime minister. This is a national mission and the cabinet is firmly behind the prime minister," he said.

Also present at the function were secretary-general of the



Datuk Seri Najib Razak says the principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency are deemed as sacred values demanded of every civil servant.

Commonwealth Secretariat Don McKinnon, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz and Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein.

Earlier, Nazri said the government had no intention of placing the Anti-Corruption Agency under the jurisdiction of parliament as some quarters have proposed.

Unlike some other countries,

the institutions with executive functions and regulatory powers which were related to the concerns of integrity, such as the police and the ACA, were directly under the government, he said.

Commenting on the 4.9 million eligible citizens who have not registered as voters, Najib said Malaysians who ignored their right to vote were losing out in the process of democracy.

Despite the large number of unregistered voters, Najib was satisfied with the current level of voter registration and the high turnout in elections, which averaged around 75 per cent.

"Those who have not registered are only denying their right to choose the government they wish to have. It is a privilege to become a voter and everyone should grab the chance to be one," he said.