

THE STAR

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Ezam backs Param's call for action against Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR: The proposal to establish a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the 1988 judicial crisis should be welcomed, the Civil Movement against Corruption (Gerak) said.

Its chairman Mohamed Ezam Mohd Nor said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should be blamed for the crisis which had affected the judiciary, the police and the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), as revealed by Thursday's media statement by former UN special rapporteur Datuk Param Cumaraswamy.

Param had called for a probe into alleged interference with the ACA investigations by Dr Mahathir in 1998, in which he said the then ACA director-general Datuk Shafee Yahya had testified before then High Court Justice Ariffin Jaka in the Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy trial in June 2000 that the former prime minis-

ter had ordered him to close a file

Ezam said based on Shafee's testimony, there was sufficient evidence for Dr Mahathir to be investigated for abuse of power and interference of justice.

He added it was not a surprise that the ACA had become a "dhoby shop" for corrupt officials to clean their names.

"Being the former Prime Minister does not in any way give Dr Mahathir immunity for his wrong-doings while in office.

"If ex-Peru president Alberto Fujimori can stand trial for abuse of power and corruption, then so can Dr Mahathir," he said in a statement yesterday.

"We must first rectify the deficiency in our system by looking at the root cause and attacking it head on," he added.

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