

THE STAR

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Thumbs up for no-letter policy

Whistle-blowing move also lauded by anti-graft bodies

PETALING JAYA: The whistle-blowing policy and the non-issuance of letters of support by the Transport Ministry in the interest of good governance have received support from anti-corruption organisations.

They believe the new culture adopted by the ministry would be effective in fighting corruption and bring public accountability to a higher level.

Malaysian Institute for Integrity president Datuk Dr Mohd Tap Salleh said the whistle-blowing policy was a good thing for transparency and would put people on the alert against any wrongdoings.

"If we don't report corruption or malpractices, the whole organisation will suffer. And you cannot say it's none of my business any more because eventually your job will be on the line," he said.

Transparency International Malaysia president Datuk Paul Low said information on fraud and corruption would be screened to ensure that only genuine cases were acted upon.

He also said there must be a distinction between real cases of fraud and grievances.

Ong launched the whistle-blowing policy for the Port Klang Authority and Port Klang Free Zone Sdn Bhd, the operator of the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ), yesterday.

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DATUK PAUL LOW

On Wednesday, Ong announced that his ministry would no longer be issuing letters of support to lobbyists tendering for projects and it would also not entertain similar letters of support in the interest of good governance.

Low said letters of support were generally considered unethical because they were associated with a favour.

"And when a letter is from a minister, it can be implied that the project has the approval of the minister. Those letters can carry a lot of weight. It is best to give everyone equal opportunity," he said.

Mohd Tap said there was no harm if a recommendation letter was given with no strings attached.

"If the companies can deliver results, there is no harm. But if a letter is given in exchange for money or other favours, then it is bad," he said.