

# MACC may let public know of probe outcome

by **Husna Yusop**

[newsdesk@thesundaily.com](mailto:newsdesk@thesundaily.com)

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) plans to adopt a policy whereby the public would be informed if the MACC has decided to close a particular case which had become public knowledge.

Chief Commissioner Datuk Abu Kassim Mohamed told his first press conference yesterday that this is in line with the principle of fairness for not only the complainant but also the accused. He said it is unfair to announce the result of investigation into all cases as not all were publicly known and this would create doubts on the accused's integrity even though he may have been cleared.

He said the matter was raised at the MACC management meeting recently and will be discussed with the MACC Advisory Board and Attorney-General's Chambers to determine if there are legal implications to such a move.

Abu Kassim also reminded the public and the media not to disclose information about reports lodged with the MACC to anyone except its officers and prosecuting officers until the accused is charged in court.

He said it is an offence under the MACC Act to do so, and the maximum penalty is two years jail or RM100,000 fine or both. "In future, we will use this provision," he said, referring to recent cases of individuals or organisations calling for a press conference before or after lodging reports.

He explained that making information public would affect investigation which needs elements of "confidentiality" and "surprise" and also result in the person accused being unfairly tried by the public.

He said without surprise, it would be difficult for MACC to find the relevant documents and necessary information to facilitate investigation.

"When we can't get enough evidence, we failed to carry out the investigation, then we were accused of being inefficient," he said.

When suggested that the provision is against freedom of the press, he said: "You can be a good investigative journalist by exposing to us cases which we don't investigate, but don't investigate cases which we are investigating."

