

# INTERNATIONAL ANTI-GRAFT FUND NAMED AFTER DR M

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## Malaysia donates RM500,000 to fund set up by IAACA

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**A** FUND set up to combat corruption globally has been named the Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad Fund in honour of the prime minister's efforts to fight corruption. This was announced by the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) president Ali Fetais Al-Marri at the start of IAACA's 10th General Conference and Annual Meeting. Malaysia donated RM500,000 to the fund to help people who faced repercussions in their fight against corruption. Ali announced that Qatar, where IAACA is based, will double the contribution.

Dr Mahathir, at the conference, delivered a keynote address titled "15 years of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Accomplishments and Prospects". "Corruption destroys society. There is a need to fight it. But it is not easy because people are tempted by it. But we can change the culture by rejecting corrupt practices," said Dr Mahathir. "We believe that organisations like IAACA and international cooperation are important due to porous borders as money can be moved across borders to other countries. This is money laundering. International cooperation will reduce corruption to a bearable degree. "I hope this organisation will continue to be active and members will continue to exchange ideas. It is useful for poorer countries because corruption is in their system." The conference was held at the Vienna International Centre, which houses the UN.

At a press conference later, he said every country had the right to accept or deny entry to people from other countries. "The Americans are building high walls to keep Mexicans away. People who are undesirable to our country must be kept out, including those suspected of being terrorists and the like. We have that right (to deny entry) and we must exercise that right." He said the athletes in question came from a country that did whatever it liked, such as building (illegal) settlements in other people's country and removing people from their own country. "It has even raided our ship that carried aid to the Gaza people. There are many other things that Israel has done that are against the international law and morality. "We don't want to have anything to do with them, including their people. If they want to compete in sports, they can go to other countries. But for Malaysia,

they are from a criminal country and we cannot accept them." On combating corruption, he said the most important thing was commitment to the cause, with a number of mechanisms already in place to curb it. He said the leaders should not be corrupt. "Agencies dealing with corruption are everywhere, and it is important to empower them to take action, even if it involves very important people," he added. "Leaders must love their country. When leaders are given the power, but they abuse it, then they must be removed." He also fielded a question on the fairness of the upcoming court case involving people implicated in the IMalaysia Development Bhd scandal. "We want to stick to the rule of law. We need documented proof that cannot be disputed for the prosecution to make a case," he said, urging people not to listen to rumours.