

Dr M: All MPs must declare assets

PUTRAJAYA: The government is ramping up efforts to check corruption by extending the asset declaration initiative to include opposition members of parliament (MPs).

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this meant opposition MPs, as well as the rest of the federal lawmakers, must declare their assets in the Lower House of Parliament.

"The opposition MPs can exercise some powers. For example, they have the power of criticising the government and they have (the) free voice (to put forward) the criticism made by somebody or others.

"(Thus), they (the opposition MPs) must also declare their assets. This has to go through the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat before it can be initiated."

He said this after chairing the 8th Special Cabinet Committee on Anti-Corruption (JKKMAR)

and the launching of the myPortal initiative here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir earlier said the asset declaration initiative for the ruling party MPs was one of their key performance indicators (KPIs) for ministers.

The KPI requires them to ensure administration members in their ministries declare their assets to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

The National Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Centre (GIACC), Dr Mahathir said, had proposed five KPIs, including asset declaration initiatives, to show the commitment and accountability of all ministers.

"The second proposal is to form and execute the gift policy. This will see ministers having to sign a declaration to issue directive on the said policy and ensure it is carried out.

"What is the gift policy? Now we cannot accept many gifts.

"Previously, when I was the prime minister, I had received 26 cars, which I had returned.

"Now, the gifts received cannot be worth more than RM500. We can accept food and flowers.

"Now, my house is full of food and flowers. So, don't go and report to (GIACC director-general Tan Sri Abu Kassim (Mohamed)," he quipped, drawing laughter from the floor.

The other three proposed KPIs for the ministers include rolling out anti-corruption plans at their respective organisations; to hold meetings on strengthening governance, integrity and anti-corruption at ministerial level, as well as to boost transparency on public procurement, and reduce risk of corruption.

Dr Mahathir underscored the need for all quarters to play their role in the fight against corruption. He highlighted some of the initiatives deliberated during the