

## FOLLOWING THE LAW

# 'NO COMPROMISE ON MISCONDUCT IN CIVIL SERVICE'

Investigations must be completed before action is taken, says Ismail Sabri

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has given an assurance that Putrajaya will not com-

promise on misconduct among civil servants.

Stressing that the government would not intervene in the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki's case, Ismail Sabri said government intervention would go against the establishment of the MACC, an independent body that should not be dictated to by politicians, including a prime minister.

"Originally, MACC was known as the Anti-Corruption Agency, which was under the Prime Minister's Department, but many disagreed and asked for it to be an independent body so that there will be no intervention by the government, especially a prime minister — which was why MACC was established.

"But now they want me to intervene. I hope we can all be consistent with the things we do," he said during a media conference when visiting flood victims at the Kota Marudu community hall here yesterday.

Present were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob handing out aid to flood victims at the Kota Marudu community hall yesterday. With him is Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor. BERNAMA PIC

Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili.

Ismail Sabri said this in response to a statement by Pakatan Harapan (PH) that called for the formation of an independent body to investigate Azam for allegedly owning shares in a company listed on Bursa Malaysia.

The prime minister, however, said the appropriate action would be to follow the law.

"It is wrong to say that the government is staying silent because there are rules to follow since MACC is an independent body.

"The Securities Commission (SC) is also calling up Azam for explanations. So, let's wait for the outcome from the SC.

"If there are other investigations, such as by police or other agencies, again, let's wait for these investigations to be concluded first.

"I believe it is wrong to declare Azam as guilty before the investigations are completed."

He said appropriate action could be taken after the investigations had been completed.

"We can't interfere in the

probes conducted by the agencies. Let them do their work."

When asked on calls for Azam to go on leave pending the investigations, Ismail Sabri said the government must be consistent with the decisions of previous governments, including PH.

"When the Penang chief minister went to the court for a corruption case, nobody from PH had asked the chief minister to go on leave. He remained as the chief minister. So let's not have a double standard here." **Additional reporting by Arfa Yunus**