

MACC to call in ex-PM over RM700m claim

SELANGOR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission will call in a former prime minister as early as this week as part of its investigation into the RM700 million allegedly spent on government publicity work, including the Keluarga Malaysia campaign.

Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said the former prime minister, his predecessor and former aides would be the last people to be called in.

"Only one of them (former prime minister) would be called in, for now... as early as this week and latest, early next week.

"We are addressing the RM700

million issue. What's important is how the money was spent.

"We don't have too many questions on how it was approved but (we have queries) on how it was spent and the companies (that got the contracts)." He said this after the Good Governance Symposium here yesterday.

Azam said it was a routine investigation and the MACC had also called in the companies that received projects in the campaign.

"Yes (it is a normal procedure)... when there is an allegation, our duty is to investigate and that also covers how the

money was spent," he said.

When asked how many people had been called in, Azam said: "Not fewer than four."

On Jan 2, the *New Straits Times* reported that the MACC had teams scouring the Finance Ministry and Prime Minister's Department for documents linked to the previous administration's spending on the Keluarga Malaysia campaign.

The MACC was investigating allegations of excessive amounts of funds being spent on the promotional campaigns of previous administrations following public outcry and reports lodged.