

EX-PM WINS PRAISE FOR INTEGRITY

MACC chief says Pak Lah showed commitment to transparency and good governance

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIAN Anti-corruption Commission (MACC) Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki has paid tribute to former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for his bold leadership in the fight against corruption.

He said Abdullah would be remembered for his integrity, vision and dedication to the nation.

"His leadership saw the transformation of the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) into the MACC in 2009. This was a bold step that marked a new era in the fight against corruption," he told the *New Straits Times*.

He said Abdullah's commitment to transparency and good governance was a lasting legacy.

"May his soul rest in peace and may his contributions to the nation never be forgotten."



Tan Sri Azam Baki

Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4 Centre) founder Cynthia Gabriel said Abdullah paved the way for Malaysia's ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2008.

"The UNCAC is the only legally binding global anti-corruption instrument," she said.

"With that, the Anti-Corruption Agency was uplifted to a full commission, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission."

She said Abdullah was key in ensuring the enactment of the Whistleblower Protection Act.

"This is extremely important in fighting corruption. Malaysia is among the few countries in Asia with such an act."

Universiti Sains Malaysia criminologist Datuk Dr P. Sundramoorthy said Abdullah played a pivotal role in institutional reform, particularly in the battle against corruption.

He cited the transformation of the ACA into the MACC, a move which signalled a shift towards greater independence, transparency and professionalism in combating corruption.

"The MACC, with its improved structure and investigative powers, was a bold step towards institutionalising integrity and



Then Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed (left) presenting a souvenir to former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi during an appreciation event by MACC in Kuala Lumpur in July 2016. (Inset) The souvenir is a copy of the 'New Straits Times' front page from April 22, 2008 on the elevation of the Anti-Corruption Agency to the MACC. NSTP FILE PIX

restoring public trust in governance.

"Pak Lah's efforts laid the groundwork for a more accountable public sector and inspired a generation of Malaysians to ex-

pect higher standards from their leaders.

"His vision reminded us that the fight against corruption is not just about enforcement, but about building a culture of ethics, trans-

parency and good governance."

Turning the ACA into an independent commission in 2009 ensured greater autonomy and transparency, with oversight panels set up to monitor MACC's functions.