

MACC QUIZZED ISMAIL SABRI FOR 5 HOURS LAST TUESDAY

Information from ex-PM led to arrest of four; he is expected to be called in again

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FORMER prime minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob was questioned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) for five hours last Tuesday.

The Bera member of parliament was brought in for questioning at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya to assist an investigation into the hundreds of millions of ringgit spent by his administration on promotional and publicity expenditures.

This took place last week, before he was reported to have collapsed at home last Saturday, which saw him hospitalised for blood pressure-related matters.

However, sources said the



Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob was reported to have collapsed at home and was hospitalised last Saturday, days after he was questioned by the MACC.

MACC was not done with Ismail Sabri and was expected to call him in again.

It is understood that information gathered during the five-hour grilling resulted in investigators identifying four of his

former aides as persons of interest who needed to be questioned.

This led to the much-publicised arrest and remand of the four last Friday to facilitate a probe into alleged corruption and abuse of power.

It was also reported that an MACC raid at a residence belonging to one of Ismail Sabri's ex-staff members uncovered more than RM100 million in cash and valuables, including jewellery, stashed in bags and safes in several rooms.

Investigators also seized documents and electronic devices from the house.

Ismail Sabri was prime minister from 2021 to 2022, making him Malaysia's shortest-serving premier.

On Thursday, MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said the commission would begin summoning eight other individuals to assist the probe.

The eight, he said, would be called up in stages over the next two weeks to have their statements recorded.

The investigation is being carried out under Section 16A of the MACC Act 2009 and The Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

The four ex-aides arrested, two of whom were believed to be "Datuk", were released on bail after their remand period ended.