

MACC GRILLS ISMAIL SABRI FOR 6 HOURS

Ex-PM answers queries related to project approvals, procurement signed during his tenure

KALBANA PERIMBANAYAGAM
AND AMEEN HAZIZI
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

DATUK Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob spent more than six hours at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) headquarters yesterday as he was questioned yet again by graft-busters.

The former prime minister has now been grilled for more than 24 hours by MACC in its graft probe.

Yesterday, the Bera member of parliament arrived at the MACC headquarters at 9.52am for the third session of his statement recording, following his identification as a suspect in the corruption and money laundering investigation.

But unlike his sessions on March 13 and 14, when he acknowledged the press by rolling down the window of his vehicle, Ismail Sabri left the MACC headquarters at 4.30pm without responding to the media.

This marks the longest period he has

spent at MACC since his initial summons on March 1.

A source close to the investigation said the statement-taking process remained incomplete and that Ismail Sabri was expected to return at 10am today.

"The focus today (yesterday) was on documents related to project approvals and procurement signed during his tenure as the ninth prime minister.

"We require further clarification on certain assets he has declared and projects he approved," said the source.

Investigations into the case have been delayed several times due to health issues, after Ismail Sabri reportedly collapsed at his residence and was rushed to hospital.

MACC officials later met with his doctor to assess his condition.

On March 1, Ismail Sabri was questioned for five hours at the MACC headquarters regarding the hundreds of millions of ringgit spent on promotional and publicity expenses during his tenure as prime minister from 2021 to 2022.

On Feb 24, MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said four former aides of Ismail Sabri had been detained in connection with the investigation. They allegedly led investigators to a safehouse where valuables worth millions were reportedly kept.

MACC has seized, among others, RM170 million in cash and 16kg of gold worth about RM7 million.