

RM170m cash, gold bars seized in probe on aides linked to ex-PM

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has confirmed it seized cash amounting to approximately RM170 million in various currencies, along with 16kg of gold bullion bars estimated to be worth some RM7 million in its ongoing investigations into corruption and money laundering involving officers linked to former prime minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

MACC stated the seized cash included currencies such as Baht, Riyal, British Pound, Korean Won, Euro, Swiss Franc and Yuan.

In a statement yesterday, the commission said the seizure was subsequent to inspections

at the residence and three other premises believed to be safehouses, following the arrest of four individuals the previous week.

"The focus of the investigation is on the expenditure and acquisition of funds for promotional and publicity purposes while he (Ismail Sabri) was leading the country.

"This investigation is being conducted in accordance with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 and the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001."

Two individuals with the title "Datuk" were among four former senior officers of Ismail Sabri

who were earlier detained by MACC to assist in investigations into several cases linked to corruption during his administration.

In addition, an executive officer of a foundation and a woman who was an assistant to a special officer were also detained by the agency.

MACC said Ismail Sabri had been ordered on December 11, 2024 to make a declaration of his assets under Section 36(1) of the MACC Act 2009, adding that the declaration had been officially submitted on Feb 10.

"Ismail Sabri appeared at the MACC office to provide his statement on Feb 19. However,

MACC does not rule out the possibility that he will be called back to assist in further investigations."

MACC added that it has also identified about 10 witnesses who will be called in the near future to assist in the investigation.

"The commission would like to emphasise that the investigation is being conducted independently, professionally and in accordance with existing laws.

"MACC is committed to ensuring that any form of misconduct related to corruption and money laundering is dealt with firmly in the interest of the country."