

**Inappropriate For MACC To Keep Records Of Properties Of Ministers - Liew
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KOTA KINABALU, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- It is inappropriate for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief to keep records of properties of ministers and deputy ministers, said Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk V. K. Liew.

He reasoned that this was because the MACC's main role was to receive and investigate complaints on corruption in the country.

"The role is not for the MACC chief to keep the records of assets of ministers and deputy ministers.

"As far as I am concerned, we have (already) been told from the beginning (at the time of appointment as ministers and deputy ministers) to submit records of our assets (which we have done)," he told reporters at a news conference here today.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president was asked to comment on a recent statement by MACC advisory panel chairman Puan Sri Zaitun Zawiyah Puteh over the commission's proposal to the government to obtain a copy of the declaration of assets of Cabinet members and their spouses and other family members.

"We propose that a copy of the declaration of assets of all members of the federal administration be given to the commission. We (further) propose that their spouses and other family members be required to disclose their assets through a statutory declaration and a record of it be kept by the MACC," she was quoted as saying.

On Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's call to ministers in the federal government to declare their assets, Liew, a lawyer, said:

"When we were made ministers and deputy ministers, we were asked to submit or declare our assets".

"I have done my part and I want to assure that there will be no added fortune when I retire.

"Ironically, I didn't see any of the Pakatan Rakyat state governments, for example, Selangor and Kedah, heeding the call by Guan Eng to declare their assets.

"Why now? Why didn't they declare, four years ago (at the time Pakatan Rakyat took over the Penang Government)," he asked.

On the Umno Supreme Council's decision to activate its disciplinary committee to monitor the activities of its members to ensure they toed the line until the general election, Liew said LDP welcomed the decision.

"In fact, that's the concern of most Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties whereby, during (general) election, we have candidates who sabotage component parties," he added.

Last Friday, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said it was better to start monitoring the election machinery early and take action to deal with any disciplinary matter, rather than after the general election.

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